Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-87-211 *2 November 1987*

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Peace Movements Meet, Release Statement
PY310155 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1345 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (NA)—The efforts of the Group of Six, which is composed of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania, "reflect the strong desire of mankind to ensure the future and survival of our planet."

This remark is part of the statement that the peace movements of the member countries of the Group of Six released in Buenos Aires, where they met yesterday. This statement stresses "the need to create an international security system that could protect the world economy and environment and provide broad guarantees for all."

The statement adds: "A consistent peace-seeking policy calls for a confrontation with the new financial colonialism in order to create a fair and equitable new international economic order. This means we must break old bonds, such as those stemming from the foreign debt, which serves the interests of the military-industrial sector, and fuels the arms race."

The statement notes: "The movements for peace of the six nations urge our governments to continue broadening their efforts which have awakened so much hope in mankind. We also ask other nations to follow this initiative, and join this noble cause that you have espoused."

It goes on to say: "We call upon all governments, people, organizations, men and women all over the world to continue supporting the intiative of the six nations, and to mobilize world public opinion in order to reach an agreement on disarmament that could guarantee lasting peace, without nuclear weapons, and with social justice."

At the end of the meeting, which took place at the School of Engineering of the University of Buenos Aires, homage was paid to Indira Gandhi and Olof Palme, "who devoted their lives to peace, disarmament, and human rights of their own people, and peoples all over the world."

Further on Area Foreign Ministers Meeting
PA301343 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The decision to comply with the Esquipulas II peace plan has been ratified by the Central American governments at the foreign ministers' meeting that ended last night. The ministers said they are making progress in complying with the agreements. They agreed that as of 5 November, they must simultaneously implement the following agreements: amnesty, cease-fire, democratization, an end to military aid to rebel forces, and the nonuse of the national territory of one country to attack another. These commitments will be met in accordance with point 10 of the Guatemalan agreements so the International Follow-Up Commission may issue its reports within the established deadlines.

Under the schedule established in Esquipulas II, field verification of the peace commitments can be started as of 5 November. However, it is understood that the compliance with some of these commitments are part of processes that will only be initiated simultaneously on that date. The foreign ministers found that each country has individually advanced in complying with the pacification process, although the ministers admitted in some cases progress has been slow.

At their meeting the foreign ministers also agreed to convene the security commission and have it begin negotiations, with the Contadora Group participating, within 45 days. The purpose is to continue discussing those points that are contained in the Contadora [as heard] peace pact, but that still have to be approved and that deal with security, verification and control. The security commission will agree on a date and place for their next meeting sometime in the next several weeks.

In accordance with point 5 of the Esquipulas II document, a project to request foreign powers to cease military aid to rebel groups in the region was discussed. The Nicaraguan and Guatemalan delegations had opposing viewpoints on this subject and this prolonged the length of the foreign ministers' meeting. Finally, it was agreed that each government present an individual request for this purpose, following the Esquipulas II stipulations.

The peace plan's executive commission, formed by the five regional foreign ministers, will propose to the Central American presidents that their next meeting be held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 15 January 1988. It was also agreed that the next executive commission meeting will be held in San Salvador on a date still to be determined. Nevertheless, the group of 15 will meet in Washington at the OAS General Assembly on 9 November. At that time they will report the simultaneous agreements and the progress made by each country in the regional pacification process.

Cuba

Managua Notes Ortega's Stopover in Cuba

PA010050 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Nicaraguan President, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, made a technical stopover today in Havana on his way to the Soviet Union, Cuba's National News Agency has reported.

While in Havana, the Nicaraguan president talked with Cuban President Fidel Castro for 2 hours. President Ortega then continued his trip to Moscow, where he will attend the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

CSSR Foreign Minister Meets With Rodriguez

FL310405 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0316 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo, has met with Bohumil Urban, minister of foreign trade of the CSSR, who is in Cuba on an official visit. The 1988 trade protocol and a cooperation agreement for citrus production will be signed during the Czechoslovak minister's stay in Cuba.

Rodriguez and Urban discussed the status of the economic and trade relations between the two countries. They also confirmed the good results achieved by the fulfillment of the agreements signed between Cuba and the CSSR for the current 5-year period.

Meets With Cabrisas

FL301633 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas held a working visit yesterday with Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister Bohumil Urban. During the meeting, Cabrisas stressed the importance of the talks since current relations guarantee the active participation of the CSSR in Cuba's economy.

While in Cuba, the Czechoslovak minister will sign the 1988 trade protocol.

IAEA's Blix Visits Nuclear Power Plant

FL290327 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 87

[By Reporter Antonio Resillez]

[Text] One of the most important activities of the working visit of Dr Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA, took place today on his tour to Cienfuegos' Juragua nuclear power plant. Initially, Mr Blix, who arrived at the plant accompanied by a group of Cuban specialists, was given a detailed explanation of the Jaragua nuclear power plant program.

Rafael Soler, acting director of the nuclear power plant, and other members of the plant's board of directors, referred to the details and characteristics of the project, its technology, the installation of reactors, and the progress of the various planned stages before the Juragua plant begins operations. Later, they toured the building which will house the (?EBR) 440-1 reactor. Dr Blix held a conversation which he described as fruitful and very positive with Cuban specialists at the construction site . He then toured the nuclear power plant's firehouse. The stage of construction and installations can be seen in this footage taped during the visit.

Dr (Vela Jose Sikh), nuclear safety specialist of the IAEA, who is accompanying Dr Blix, said in Juragua:

[Begin recording] [Sikh]) It is going very well. Naturally, the first one always takes longer, the second one will catch up with it.

[Resillez] As a specialist, do you believe these activities are appropriate for this kind of project?

[(Sikh]) It seems that the people who are building it know what they are doing. [end recording]

The IAEA delegation will continue their activities in Cuba. The Cuban television news services will report on them further.

Praises Nuclear Energy Work

FL291606 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] IAEA Director General Hans Blix has said that Cuba is prepared to use nuclear energy for the production of electricity. Blix made this statement after a visit to the Cienfuegos Nuclear Power Plant. He also wished the Cuban people much success in this endeavor.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Welcomes CEMA Members

FL311513 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and government, today welcomed the members of the scientific council of the International Institute for Economic Problems, who are in Cuba to attend the 35th meeting of that CEMA organization.

Specialists Investigate Havana Bay Oil Spill

FL300332 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Specialists and technicians are investigating the causes of an oil spill which occurred Tuesday [27 October] night in Havana Bay.

Approximately 50 to 150 tons of slosh [preceding word rendered in English], that is a combination of water and oil, spilled into the sea. The proportion of water to oil

has not been determined yet. The spilled liquid came from the Nico Lopez refinery and was discovered yesterday [28 October] at 0700, at which time several groups mobilized rapidly to prevent the oil from spreading into the rest of the bay. The fuel spill, which varies from 5 to 12 inches deep, is located between the Camilo Cienfuegos pier and the Neveria dock in the gulf fleet area.

According to specialists, the work is hard and continuous since the hydrocarbon oxidizes within the first 72 hours. Various forces are working on the clean-up operation headed by the Municipal Defense Council, which issued orders to stop work in the surrounding areas as a precautionary measure.

The direction of the wind today at noon favored the clean-up operation and various measures were taken to avoid spreading.

The causes and amount of the oil spill have not yet been determined.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Barbados

Prime Minister Announces Cabinet Changes
FL311847 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 31 Oct 87

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 31, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on Friday night named controversial backbencher Dr Don Blackman as Minister of Transport and Works among three cabinet changes that will take effect from November 2.

Sandiford, in a 10-minute national broadcast, announced an expansion of the cabinet to 14 members with the proposed appointment on November 23 of an unnamed new minister within the Ministry of Finance.

Blackman is a much-talked about politician, having switched political parties shortly before general elections in May 1986 that brought the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) to power.

In 1983 the charismatic lawyer and ex-university professor had been fired from the cabinet of former Prime Minister Tom Adams. Blackman had spurned previous attempts to join the DLP cabinet because the portfolios offered did not satisfy him.

With Blackman taking Transport and Works, present holder Philip Greaves, the deputy prime minister, will be shifted to a newly-created Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications, and Immigration.

The hand-over of full responsibility for the Ministry of Education and Culture to Minister of State Cyril Walker was the other major adjustment.

In so doing, Sandiford relinquishes a ministry he has held for most of his career as a minister. His responsibilities have also been shorn of international transport to free him to oversee finance which he took over on the resignation last August of Dr Richie Haynes.

In lower level changes, backbencher Clifton Neblett, an accountant, was named new parliamentary secretary to the prime minister. Senator Anderson Morrison, at present in this post, will be transferred to Deputy Prime Minister Greaves.

The changes effect the removal of telecommunications from the Minister of Transport and Works, and immigration from the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Sandiford said the changes were intended to streamline the administration of government. It is his second cabinet adjustment since succeeding the late Prime Minister Errol Barrow on June 1.

In his speech, the prime minister gave an overview of the economy and warned Barbadians that the "slender gains" made up to September "would easily evaporate if we do not husband our scarce resources or if the already hostile international economic environment deteriorates further as a result of the decline in share prices..."

The Central Bank said the Barbados economy grew slightly in the first nine months of the year, led by strong performances in tourism and construction. Other key productive areas, especially sugar and manufacturing, registered declines.

"At the beginning of the year, the economic outlook was not as comforting as we would have hoped and it was not expected that the five per cent growth of 1986 would be repeated in 1987," Sandiford said.

Sandiford said there was a provisional government deficit of BDS142.2 million dollars up to September, up from 113.7 million for the same period last year. Over the same period too, government expenditure rose by 17.2 per cent while revenue increased at the slower rate of 8.8 per cent.

Following is the new line-up of ministers and parliamentary secretaries:

Erskine Sandiford, M.P. [Minister of Parliament]—prime minister, minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Philip Greaves, M.P.—deputy prime minister, minister of International Transport, Telecommunications, and Immigration.

Maurice King, M.P.—attorney-general and minister of Legal Affairs.

Warwick Franklin, M.P.—minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Wes Hall, M.P.—minister of Tourism and Sport

Senator Sir James Tudor—minister of Foreign Affairs

Keith Simmons, M.P.—minister of Employment, Labour, and Community Development.

Harold Blackman, M.P.—minister of Housing and Lands.

Branford Taitt, M.P.—minister of Health.

Evelyn Greaves M.P—minister of Trade, Industry, and Commerce.

Cyril Walker M.P.—minister of Education and Culture.

Senator Harcourt Lewis—minister of state for the Civil Service.

(to be announced)—minister of state, ministry of Finance

Clifton Neblett, M.P.—parliamentary secretary to the prime minister.

Senator Anderson Morrison—parliamentary secretary to the deputy prime minister.

Maizie Barker-Welch, M.P.—parliamentary secretary, ministry of Employment, Labor and Community Development.

Haiti

PUCH's Theodore Presents Party Program

FL301427 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Yesterday we received the program of Mr Rene Theodore, who is the secretary general of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] and a presidential candidate.

In his program, the PUCH leader promises to change the face of Haiti where he intends to put agriculture back on its feet and to set up a social program capable of raising the standard of living of the masses. Mr Theodore's program also addresses other matters, such as economic, monetary, industrial, and commercial policy, and transport, health, diplomacy and international relations.

On education, Mr Theodore says that as soon as he is in power, he promises to organize a special session of the Baccalaureate exam in March 1988 for students who did not participate in the 1987 session.

PNCH Asks Public To Rise Up Against Macoutes

FL301409 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In a news release, the Christian Nationalist Party of Haiti [PNCH] has appealed to the Haitian people to rise up.

Rise up against the Macoutes who have declared civil war on you. Rise up against the Macoutes who have threatened you with their brute force. Rise up and form a bloc behind the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], as you promised. Rise up so that elections can be held without fraud on 15 and 29 November.

We of the PNCH ask all large car and motorcycle dealers, who have been making big profits in Haiti for as long as anyone can remember, to get together and provide the CEP with jeeps and motorcycles, thus joining the people's camp and showing that they too are patriots and favor democracy. The people will acknowledge them, saying "Ayi Bobo" [a voodoo salutation]. The people will salute our merchants.

If the National Government Council and the Haitian Army do not have the means or the efficiency required to provide security for the CEP and the population, should the reactionary forces and the Macoutes turn out to be too well-armed, we request that the CEP ask the citizenry to come help out the Haitian Army with this task.

Union on Support for Foreign Observers

FL302237 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] A news release from the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin-American Workers Central [CATH/CLAT] says: The November 1987 elections are a decisive moment in the history of our country.

Thus, says the note, important international and governmental institutions and prominent figures from overseas will be coming to Haiti as observers, to follow next November's events.

Therefore, CATH/CLAT asks the population of Haiti to give all these overseas observers assistance and protection, so they may accomplish their task properly.

The CATH/CLAT note is signed by Georges Fortune, president; Germain Jean-Francois, Organization Section; and Hubert Jean, Information Section.

Voter Registration Irregularities Viewed

Situation in Jacmel Reported

FL292244 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1930 GMT 28 Oct 87

[By Jean-Pierre Jacques, Jacmel correspondent]

[Text] The population of the southeast, as everywhere else in Haiti, is preparing to vote in the 15 and 29 November elections.

Nine candidacies for senator, 26 for deputy, 30 for communal magistrate, and 138 for CASEC [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] members have been filed with the Departmental Electoral Office [BED] for the Department of the Southeast. The population is contesting many candidacies. The BED for the Department of the Southeast has received many letters from all over the area contesting candidacies.

The population of the southeast is asking when a decision will be reached as to whether a candidacy will be accepted or rejected. It is up to the Provisional Electoral Council and the BED to say.

Registration is coming along very well, but we call attention to the fact that certain candidates are paying many people to register several times and, thus, obtain several voter registration cards. The BED for the southeast has made four arrests in this connection in Jacmel; two yesterday and two today.

In other places, many people who have already registered twice are being tracked down.

Artibonite Suspension Noted

FL292311 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Certain voter registration offices have suspended registration in Artibonite since yesterday. The decision allegedly had to do with a matter of money.

Observers are noticing that certain people are trying by all means to block the electoral process and think there is a connection between these people and the decision to suspend voter registration operations.

Observers also feel that citizens working at registration offices, who stop the registration process, are taking on a big responsibility. They should, above all, be concerned with serving their country at such a crucial moment in the national life.

Was it really necessary for them to shut down voter registration offices in order to settle a matter of money? Couldn't they have contacted the appropriate authorities while they continued to register voters? What lies behind that decision to shut down the offices? And who is behind it?

Problems Viewed by Guerre

FL302343 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Many irregularities are occurring at voter registration offices in connection with obtaining electoral cards. Some people are even getting several cards and selling them. Eng Rockefeller Guerre [former deputy under Jean-Claude Duvalier and candidate for senator for the Department of the West in the upcoming elections] thinks something like this could seriously compromise the results of the elections. We will have you listen to an excerpt of his statements.

[Begin Guerre recording] This is a problem which could have very serious consequences on the election results and on the way they develop. On the one hand, if the proceedings are not supervised properly, people may get away with a lot of fraud—especially since, as you know, there are now many Duvalierist and Jean-Claudist candidates on the political scene, former Macoutes who want to take power again. So the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] must be able to supervise the electoral proceedings constantly and at all levels.

The second problem is in connection with the poor voter registration logistics. People are stealing the electoral registers, tearing up other people's electoral cards, and I hear there are candidates buying electoral cards for five or ten dollars, in order to get elected.

I must tell you that we placed great trust in the CEP at the beginning, as it took measures and issued communiques. We still trust it. But in light of these problems, we are wondering if the elections will come off the way the CEP would like—the way we would all like—for them to come off. It looks as if the situation has become more complicated with the provisional National Government Council [CNG] giving discharges in the handling of public monies to all those Duvalierists. If the CNG had stopped them along the way by refusing to give them discharge, perhaps there would not be all this fraud. It is the Duvalierists and the Jean-Claudists who are responsible for all these irregularities.

So now it is up to the people to mobilize, to organize themselves, to form neighborhood committees, to get together in order to get rid of a Macoute whenever he appears at a registration office to cause disorder. As I have always said, the population has the final say. It is very numerous. All it has to do is organize itself, and it can drive all the Macoutes back into hiding somewhere—because the Macoutes should not be flaunting their presence like that. If the elections are to come off well, the Haitian people must shoulder their responsibility in this matter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PDCH Warns of Plot To Create Disorder

FL302219 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Sylvio Claude's Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] has declared that the CEP [Provisional

Electoral Council] must demand that the National Government Council [CNG] take measures and supply the necessary means to guarantee that the electoral campaign can take place properly and that elections are peaceful, free, and clean.

The CEP, together with the three branches of the Haitian Government, must guarantee the lives and security of all candidates.

The PDCH continues: We take this opportunity to inform the CEP, the Haitian Government, and the Haitian people that three methods are being used to provoke people, and to prevent them from voting in the upcoming 29 November elections.

First, people are using false identification documents to obtain electoral cards. Secondly, some people are buying electoral cards, others are tearing them up, or otherwise destroying them. The candidates who have benefitted from the three [as heard] Duvalierist regimes—some of whom have already received discharges for handling public monies—are creating all kinds of confusion and disorder and committing all kinds of crimes, using money and weapons to foment disorder and anarchy, abuse people, and prevent the 29 November elections from being held.

Claude's party continues: We have heard rumors which, if they prove to be true, could constitute a truly serious problem for Haiti. There are rumors of an ugly plot for 29 November. Soldiers and detectives in disguise are reportedly planning to burn an American flag, yell anti-American slogans, issue communist watchwords, and brandish communist flags in the capital and in several of the country's larger towns on 29 November—as was done not too long ago in Gonaives—in order to create anarchy, disorder, and keep the same old thugs in power.

The PDCH continues: We ask all friendly governments, especially the governments of Canada, the United States, France, and Germany, to pressure the Haitian provisional government to put an end to all disorder and provide real proof—not just talk—that an end will be put to all these murders and other crimes.

If the electoral campaign and the elections take place in respect for the rights of all citizens, in love for the fatherland, in democracy and social justice, Haiti will finally be liberated.

That was a news release from Sylvio Claude's PDCH.

Yugoslav President Makes Official Visit

Addresses Senate Session

PA011310 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov spoke of the foreign debt problem at a solemn Senate session in Mexico City. Mojsov said that political adjustment policies that do not ensure more rapid development and conditions more favorable for the payment of the debt will not save either the debtors or the creditors from the crisis.

Speaking at the Senate session today at noon, the Yugoslav president said that to solve the foreign debt crisis it is necessary first for the debtors and creditors to establish a constructive dialogue and make joint efforts. Mojsov said that the debt problem of the developing countries is one of the most serious problems the international community as a whole is faced with.

On behalf of the Senate, Arturo Romo said that the Mexican people are opposed to any form of imperialist domination and are united with all who are struggling for their liberation and for the peaceful solution of their problems.

Issues Joint Communique

PA011320 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] International security should be reached by political means, through the reduction and complete elimination of nuclear, chemical, and conventional armaments. This was stated in the joint communique issued at the end of the meetings of the presidents of Mexico and Yugoslavia.

Miguel de la Madrid and Lazar Mojsov expressed their support of the summit meeting to be held by the U.S. and Soviet Union leaders in December, and of the agreements to eliminate weapons that are to be signed by them.

Mr Mojsov held a news conference and stated that after meeting with Carlos Salinas de Gortari, he felt sure that Salinas will continue to follow the foreign policy initiated by President de la Madrid. The Yugoslav president also spoke about the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize. He said that even though the prize had been awarded to the Costa Rican president, it was deserved by all those countries that make up the Contadora Group. He added that the problem of development is the greatest problem facing humanity, and thus financial cooperation between Mexico and Yugoslavia would rest on firm and stable bases in the future.

Mr Lazar Mojsov visited the Senate. He told Mexican legislators that an economic policy that does not ensure a more rapid development and favorable conditions for payment of the debt will help neither debtors nor creditors overcome the crisis. He added that the world economy will not be able to break the vicious circle of the crisis unless it propitiates the growth and economic strengthening of developing countries.

The Yugoslav president also visited the monument to Mexico's child heroes, where he deposited a wreath. He wrote in the book of distinguished visitors that the sacrifice of the child heroes constitutes an example to future generations concerning the defense of independence and freedom of their country.

Mr Mojsov, accompanied by Regent Ramon Aguirre, unveiled a monument to Josip Broz Tito at the Reforma Boulevard. The ceremony honored the late Yugoslav statesman.

Ends Friendly Visit

LD312339 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2128 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Mexico City, Oct 31 (TANJUG)—The official and friendly visit to Mexico by Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov has ended in an atmosphere of cordiality, openness and a spirit of traditionally good relations, it is said in a statement released here today.

Mexico and Yugoslavia, it is said, have asked creditor countries, stressing the impossibility of applying measures, to solve the crisis and service the debt without development.

Mojsov and Miguel de la Madrid displayed during their talks a high degree of understanding on international issues.

The statement on the Mojsov visit also says that Yugoslav-Mexican relations are developing favourably, that they have reached a high level and that economic cooperation should now be expanded.

Leaves for Cuban Visit

LD311834 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1814 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Oct (TANJUG)—Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY, today left Mexico for Cuba, following a 2 and 1/2 day visit—which was very fruitful—to this friendly country, during which he had two meetings with his host Miguel de la Madrid in an exceptionally cordial and constructive atmosphere.

President Mojsov and his delegation were seen off by Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexican foreign minister.

Before Mexico, Mojsov visited Argentina and Peru. The visit to Cuba ends his Latin American tour.

El Salvador

Rey Prendes Blames FMLN for Talks Rupture

PA301408 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Report by Regina Cass]

[Text] Culture and Communications Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes has asserted that the FMLN broke off the dialogue simply as a pretext because the guerrillas have never wanted to seek a negotiated solution to the armed conflict in the country. Rey Prendes stated that the suspension of negotiations following Herbert Anaya's death represents an evasive action by the rebel fronts, which never intended to attain a cease-fire in our country when they began the negotiations at the nunciature. The third dialogue held earlier this month was another FMLN-FDR maneuver to show the world that they advocate a negotiated solution to the conflict.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] All the efforts exerted by the Salvadoran Government—the amnesty, the cease-fire that we are willing to decree, and all other measures to attain a democratization—have failed simply because a madman, meaning someone—on one side or the other—who opposes the peace process, has committed a murder. The rebels are using this death to break off the dialogue and any other settlement we might have attained to achieve the peace that the Salvadoran people want so much.

Consequently, the government holds the FMLN-FDR responsible for the rupture of the dialogue under a false pretext, a senseless pretext. The world should know that they do not want to achieve peace, they do not want to sit down with us in a dialogue. [end recording]

Rey Prendes added that the government hopes the rebels will reconsider their decision. Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas' cooperation will also be sought because he acted as mediator in the negotiations. Rey Prendes added that if no agreement is achieved, the government will implement a unilateral cease-fire on 5 November. The guerrillas have already sought to sabotage the cease-fire by decreeing an indefinite transportation stoppage beginning on 3 November.

Ungo Endorses Quick Resumption of Talks

PA011740 Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Nov (AFP)—Salvadoran opposition leader Guillermo Ungo has said that the talks between his country's government and guerrillas must be resumed "as soon as possible," but with "specific and serious" proposals by President Jose Napoleon Duarte's administration.

FDR President Ungo cautioned during an interview with AFP that the rebels are not prepared to attend further meetings "just to become worn out."

The guerrillas suspended the talks last week in the wake of the murder of Herbert Anaya, president of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, on 26 October.

Ungo added that in order for the talks to resume the government would have to change its stance, "because it is engaged in talks without dialogue, seriousness, and the spirit to reach political agreements."

He noted that in the latest meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, "the government's actions and stances were very ambiguous." He stressed that, so far, "we know of no proposal from Duarte" regarding a cease-fire in El Salvador.

Ungo accused Duarte of "playing" with the Esquipulas II agreement, adding that in El Salvador "there is no democratic process as the Esquipulas II agreement calls for, but rather there is a rightist process and a rise in repression."

Moreover, he acknowledged that the FDR, the FMLN guerrillas' political wing, did not agree with the suspension of the talks. He felt that it must be resumed "as soon as possible."

However, Ungo denied that there are any divisions within the two fronts. He emphatically noted that "there are differences of opinions (with the FMLN) on this matter but there are no divisions."

He was asked about the alleged killers of Anaya and quickly replied: "The government; I do not say Duarte, but ultraright sectors want the peace efforts to fail."

"That murder does not surprise me in a country where there is no democracy, state terrorism is practiced, and death squads continue operating fostered by the repressive apparatus of the regime, government, and the Army," he added.

"I believe San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas shares that view, but it would be good if you asked him," he noted.

As for the possibility of his return to El Salvador, as did FDR Vice President Ruben Zamora, he said that "we have yet to work out the details, but we are trying to do so very soon."

Ungo attended a meeting of Latin American Social Democrats in Guatemala and returned to Panama, where he is living.

Nicaragua

Ortega Discusses Moscow Trip, Esquipulas

PA310251 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2242 GMT 30 Oct 87

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega at the Presidency's Press and Information Directorate in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...I will leave tomorrow for Moscow to attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. General Secretary Gorbachev invited me approximately 2 months ago. I told him I would be present to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution; my response was already known. I will be back in Nicaragua on 5 November, which is the date the Central American presidents set to initiate implementation of the Esquipulas agreements.

We will be back here in Nicaragua on 5 November, with our people, after having participated in the celebrations of the anniversary of the October Revolution. I will participate in solemn events scheduled for 2-3 November. Other activities are planned for 4 November; I will return that day to be here on the 5th. I will not be in Moscow on 7 November, when there will be a parade. I will, however, attend the solemn events which, as I said, will be held 2-3 November. This is what we wanted to announce, and we are here to answer any questions.

[Preston] I am Julia Preston from *The Washington Post*. Commander, can you give us more information on your discussion with Soviet authorities concerning this invitation? Why were you at first given an invitation for certain days on which it would seem important for you to be in Nicaragua? How did you decide not to be in Moscow on the most important day of the celebrations?

[Ortega] Well, there was no discussion of the invitation. I was simply invited to be present for the celebrations. The celebrations will begin on 2 November. Solemn events will be held on the 2d and the 3d. There will be other activities on 4-5 November, and the parade will be on the 7th. I will be present at the solemn events on 2-3 November. I will also participate in some activities on 4 November. We know we will gain 9 to 10 hours by traveling from Moscow to Nicaragua; I will be in Nicaragua on 5 November. We Nicaraguans decided that. We Nicaraguans decided this because we were interested in attending the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, and we will be there. We also wanted to be in Nicaragua on 5 November, the day implementation of the Esquipulas II plan will begin.

[(Aluda)] Mr President, (Moises Aluda) of *La Jornada*, from Mexico. Yesterday, as the party in power, the FSLN said that it would not go any further if the other governments do not show compliance or do not bring themselves up to par (?with what you are doing) in some way. [Words indistinct] said yesterday that it has already reached [words indistinct] and will not go any further if there is no simultaneity. At the same time it was announced that on 5 November you will announce some measures or decisions related to the compliance with the Esquipulas agreement. Does this mean the government thinks in one way and the FSLN thinks in another way?

[Ortega] There is no discrepancy. The measures I will announce on 5 November fall within the Esquipulas agreements' framework. The FSLN position defends the Esquipulas agreements' framework. Therefore, these measures will become known on 5 November. We have explained that, given the efforts Nicaragua has made and the steps it has taken, we expect other governments engaged in destabilizing activities against our country to take steps to set the conditions for the [words indistinct]. This principle is included in the Esquipulas agreements.

[Cortez] Guillermo Cortez of *Barricada*. Mr President, how do you assess the manner your government has administered the resources the Soviet Union has made available as a measure of solidarity? How can this situation influence the contributions scheduled for the future? Second, I would like to ask you for a comment on the reports about the use of Chilean weapons in this country.

[Ortega] Regarding the use of the various resources the Soviet Union has supplied to our country, these have been used by the people to defend our country because, unquestionably, we (?could have hardly) defended our revolution without rifles from the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has supplied us with food, oil, machinery, and equipment all these years. The United States, on the other hand, has severed all of these [words indistinct] of cooperation, blockaded Nicaragua, and decreed an embargo on our country. I would say the resources supplied by the Soviet Union have been used in a highly efficient manner and that there are some problems of a more global nature which are being faced by these countries, such as the war itself.

Another problem is the port structure we found in this country. It has sometimes caused the goods sent to us to spoil or to be lost because of our limited unloading capability at the ports. These ports have been built to unload small volumes of cargo and not the large volumes currently being unloaded in our country. Goods were unloaded in small amounts monthly with ships that had little load-carrying capacity. There was no great pressure on the ports. The storage capacity was suited for this type of trade, which was in particular trade with the United States. Now we must carry out this type of trade with and receive this type of cooperation from countries like the Soviet Union. These countries, however, cannot send us small quantities of goods like food, oil, wheat, transportation materials, etc. So, large volumes arrive and this causes problems, especially at the ports.

This is a very acute problem, which has become widely known through the news media. The institutions have been frequently criticized and accused of lacking the

capacity to [words indistinct] the merchandise. Aside from some of our institutions' deficiencies, there is an operational problem: the ports' capacity.

We have found ourselves in situations when there are five ships at the dock and the port does not have the capacity for the ships to unload simultaneously. They have to take turns unloading, and at the same time we have to load export products, like bananas, for instance. In other words, there are no loading facilities because the port is bogged down, so to speak.

This is the main problem we have faced regarding the use of resources. Other problems we have faced are related to the deterioration of the machinery we get, which is linked to the lack of shops. We have been building them at full speed, but they are not yet complete. Therefore, conditions for the maintenance and transportation of the machinery and equipment we receive from the Soviet Union are not good. However, other aspects have already been overcome.

Regarding the other question on the matter of the bombs [words indistinct] you talked about, the cluster bomb the Nicaraguan people have is the Nicaraguan people's fighting ability. This is our response to the allegations being made here and there.

[Dominick] Connie Dominick [words indistinct]. How can Nicaragua fulfill the agreement if you refuse to talk to the contras or lift the state of emergency?

[Ortega] How can Nicaragua...

[Dominick, interrupting] Fulfill the agreements by 5 November if you refuse to the talk to the contras or lift the state of emergency?

[Ortega] I have clearly stated we are not willing to establish any political dialogue with the counterrevolutionary leadership. I said a long time ago that we are willing to hold a political dialogue with the U.S. Government to discuss the normalization of relations between the United States and Nicaragua. Regarding the state of emergency, it was created because of the aggression Nicaragua is confronting. I have often said that the very moment the aggression ends the state of emergency will be lifted.

The Esquipulas II agreements insist on simultaneous implementation. In other words, as of 5 November steps will have to be taken by other groups to create the conditions for simultaneous implementation. The state of emergency cannot be lifted if the aggression is not stopped. We must find out [words indistinct].

[Reporter] David [name indistinct] of Radio Canada and London's BBC. Mr President, my question has two parts. First, I am a little confused over what a political dialogue means. Is a political dialogue different from direct or indirect negotiations that could establish a cease-fire? The second part of the question concerns a U.S. newspaper report quoting Costa Rican President Arias as saying that at one time you had told him of your willingness to make an effort to achieve negotiations or a negotiated cease-fire. Is this true?

[Ortega] I have spoken to President Arias, and I have indicated in the first place that we must defend the Esquipulas II agreements, the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements, and not make statements that go beyond the agreements. If we make realistic progress in fulfilling the agreements we would go from little to great progress. We would make gradual progress until the implementation of the agreements is complete.

When I speak of a political dialogue, I mean a dialogue in terms, for example, of security. This can only mean the United States. The United States has security problems with Nicaragua, and this has led that nation to implement a war policy against Nicaragua, using the mercenaries. The United States must therefore discuss these security matters with Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Government has no reason to discuss these issues with the counterrevolutionary leadership.

Regarding the cease-fire as a specific element in the Esquipulas II agreements, we have taken the first step in what we describe as a zonal cease-fire. In other words, we have established limits in certain areas and could make the cease-fire effective through an on-the-spot agreement with the contra leaders. We are making this effort. We have not ruled this out. We have been willing to move in that direction. We have established a partial cease-fire. We have not ruled out seeking an agreement.

I spoke with Cardinal Obando y Bravo before he departed for Rome about this first effort Nicaragua is making prior to the 90-day deadline. The National Reconciliation Commission itself could go to the cease-fire zones. The cardinal could try to seek ways to establish communications in a cease-fire zone with the contras and agree on a cease-fire right there.

I am not speaking of imposing a cease-fire but agreeing on a cease-fire. We have explored some early methods, and we are exploring new ways to agree on a cease-fire.

[Reporter] Any other type of negotiation with the contra leadership prior to the cease-fire is excluded. [Words indistinct] the political dialogue?

[Ortega] The cease-fire is specifically a cease-fire. We are not willing, nor would it be acceptable—at the moment of the cease-fire agreement—to have the contras there stating, for example, that elections in Nicaragua should be held earlier, or that the Sandinist government should resign, or that political changes should be made. If they want to make those statements, they must accept amnesty and participate in the national dialogue being carried out in this country with all the civilian political opposition forces. If we hold a political discussion with

the contra leadership we would automatically be ignoring the domestic opposition; we would be ignoring the civilian opposition in Nicaragua and replacing them with the contra leadership. This would be totally absurd.

[Vilar] President Ortega, Arturo Vilar for Venevision, Venezuela. You all said yesterday you will not accept mediation for the talks that may be held with the contras. Some sectors view this as a slap at Cardinal Obando y Bravo regarding his participation in the effort to achieve a cease-fire in Nicaragua. Meanwhile, you have spoken of simultaneous implementation as the solution for fulfilling the Esquipulas agreements. How can there be simultaneous implementation if you do not sit down and talk with the other side to the conflict, the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] I explained that we have taken a first step prior to the 5 November date and that we implemented a cease-fire in certain zones. I also explained that I spoke to Cardinal Obando y Bravo prior to his departure to Rome and told him that if he found it advantageous he could visit the cease-fire zones, as president of the National Reconciliation Commission, to seek out a town, for example, with the security we could provide. He could visit that town, be at the site of the cease-fire, and inform the people of the government's conditions for a cease-fire. He could try to arrange a cease-fire. Under the circumstances we are not denying Cardinal Obando y Bravo's role. On the contrary, we have spoken of his role. However, we will not accept a political dialogue with the contras, either directly or indirectly. I believe the political dialogue must be either with the U.S. Government, to discuss security issues, or with the civilian opposition, our country's political parties that are doing their civic duty by participating in the national dialogue. It is with these parties that we must hold a political dialogue, not with the contra leadership.

The cease-fire, the state of emergency, and all these elements are within the framework of simultaneity. Simultaneity means that all of us in Central America comply [with the agreements]. It also means that the United States respects the agreements and therefore ends its intervention. If all these elements become a reality, we are committed to comply. If the United States at this moment would, for example, end its aggression against Nicaragua, then we would be forced to lift the state of emergency. We would be bound to lift the state of emergency. This is what is called simultaneity, and it was widely discussed in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Mr President, there is something that is not too clear; you speak about a cease-fire agreement in the field. The contra leadership, Sandinist government to agree to a cease-fire; that is, technical, nonpolitical negotiations with the contra leadership.

[Ortega] I had not heard about that proposal from the contra leadership. Many things have been said. News reports describe many positions, and what I know from public statements made by Mr Bermudez and Mr Calero, for example, is that they are against the Esquipulas agreements. That is what I know. In other words, I have not heard they are willing to find a technical solution to the cease-fire.

[Roche] Alton Roche from AFP. From statements made yesterday [words indistinct] it is understood the Nicaraguan Government, before it negotiates with the contras and provided there is no simultaneous implementation of the agreements, prefers to continue the war until the contras have been defeated in the field, until they are physically eliminated. The question, Mr President, is do you feel Nicaragua is prepared to continue with several more years of war during a very serious economic situation where obviously the people are having serious problems? And do you have guarantees that—if you continue the war—you will continue to receive international support—or international solidarity—not only in arms but also in consumer goods and basic goods that would allow you to withstand a very difficult situation that would drag on? Thank you.

[Ortega] In the first place, we are not seeking that war. We have not created that war; we do not direct that war or its end. What we could do is to finish off the contras, or else the contras could take advantage of the amnesty law. And if the U.S. Government does not change its attitude, the war is going to continue under different guises. The U.S. Government could impose a military blockade around Nicaragua, it could launch a military invasion against our country, it could launch [words indistinct] or it could launch any type of aggression. The contras are not the main problem. The main problem is the behavior of the U.S. Government, which follows a policy of war and destruction against Nicaragua. It is not up to us—and in yesterday's communique we were not establishing any type of position regarding our desire to continue the war—but up to the U.S. Government whether the war will end soon or will drag on, because we are willing to comply with the Esquipulas agreements; we are willing to let the contras take advantage of the amnesty law; we are willing to lift the state of emergency within the framework of simultaneity; we are willing to fulfill the Esquipulas agreements: That is what yesterday's communique by the FSLN National Directorate clearly stated.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] If the United States is not prepared to support the Esquipulas agreements in an effective manner, we will have no other option but to continue resisting U.S. aggression and to continue resisting this war at the price this war imposes.

[Rioseco] Pedro Rioseco from PRENSA LATINA. Mr President, Honduran President Azcona, upon his return from the United States on 27 October, made some statements in Tegucigalpa that the Honduran Embassy distributed today in Managua. He said he agrees with a

suspension of military aid to the contras while the commitments stipulated in the Guatemala agreement are complied with, but he does not agree with deciding at this time to completely cancel that option. He added that he does not agree with cancelling that option completely because he favors any option that may exert pressure on the Nicaraguan Government to comply with the Esquipulas agreements. I feel this is not exactly the letter and the spirit of the agreement, and I would like for you to comment on these statements.

[Ortega] I really do not have a direct communication from President Azcona. I had read the cable, but of course what the cable stated is definitely not what we discussed in Guatemala. It does not reflect President Azcona's position in Guatemala, the position he reiterated a few weeks ago to Vice President Sergio Ramirez when he visited Honduras. He was in Honduras for a Central American vice presidents meeting on the Central American parliament. President Azcona has signed a document in which all of us spoke out against any support to insurgent or irregular forces operating in the region. It applies to any support on the part of any Central American government or any country outside the region. This was reiterated at the latest foreign ministers meeting held in Costa Rica. This point was made abundantly clear. So we hope the information is not accurate and that President Azcona is willing to fulfill the commitments of the Esquipulas agreements.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct], Sweden. Mr President, next week the Swedish foreign minister will visit Nicaragua. Sweden is a country that has supported your country very much. Are you not afraid the Swedish people will be disappointed if no new steps have been made toward peace? How can Sweden contribute to democratic development in Nicaragua? Can Sweden contribute to democratic development in Nicaragua? Can Sweden take the role of mediator in the conflict?

[Ortega] By offering valuable cooperation Sweden is already playing a very important role in helping Nicaraguans and in achieving peace in Nicaragua and Central America. What we should be asking ourselves is what steps will be taken by those who have so far taken none. The problem is that the United States is able to exert such strong propaganda pressure that it is addressing itself exclusively to demanding peace from Nicaragua. I believe, however, that Nicaragua has already taken a number of very important steps; it has shown a willingness to fulfill the Esquipulas agreements. It is already high time the international community and the international press start to ask the United States when it will take one step to contribute to the Esquipulas agreements. It must ask those Central American governments in whose territories there are mercenary camps, from whose countries a whole logistical system is operated for the mercenary forces, when they are going to take steps. One must not demand from Nicaragua that it take steps. Nicaragua has already taken steps. The others must now be demanded to take steps. If the others take steps, then Nicaragua will take additional steps. So the important thing here at this moment is to see the value of the steps taken by Nicaragua and to start to demand that the United States and the other Central American governments take the corresponding steps. This should happen before 5 November, if possible, or immediately after 5 November, or within a 30-day period from 5 November to the date when the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission will meet. It is important that the others take steps.

[Preston] Julia Preston. Mr President, following your line of thought I would like for you to tell us about what the Sandinist Front said last night. They said that while there is aggression, there can be no lifting of the state of emergency and no amnesty. Since the United States did not sign the Guatemala agreements, what does Nicaragua expect to see? What measure does it expect to see taken by the United States so that the step may be taken? What exactly is the step the United States must take so Nicaragua may grant amnesty and lift the state of emergency? I would also like to add that the last time you went to Moscow you caused a sort of collective trauma in the U.S. Congress. In this context, I would like to know how you would like the U.S. Congress to interpret your upcoming trip to Moscow.

[Ortega] Well, Nicaragua is a sovereign country, and I must concern myself with what the Nicaraguan people and congress—which is the National Assembly—may think. The U.S. Congress may interpret my trip to Moscow as it pleases. Nicaragua is not one more U.S. state or a free associated state, as they call Puerto Rico. Nicaragua is an independent country, and we are not going to give the U.S. Congress explanations of why I am going to Moscow. Obviously I have been invited, and I am going to Moscow in response to this invitation. If the U.S. Government invited me to celebrate U.S. Independence Day I would go to the United States to take part in the celebrations.

Regarding the state of emergency and amnesty, as you know we link them to the aggression as part of the simultaneous framework. In other words, the amnesty and cease-fire are part of the simultaneous framework. All the Central American presidents are quite clear about this. At the Guatemala meeting President Duarte gave an example:If by 5 November the Salvadoran guerrillas have not complied with the Esquipulas accords the (?Salvadoran Government) would not be compelled to comply with all the accords because they would not be simultaneously implemented. Similar to this is the case of Nicaragua, which suffers from U.S. aggression. If by 5 November the United States has not ended its aggression against Nicaragua and its logistical support to the counterrevolutionaries, well, we will have to wait and see. In other words, if the United States wishes to effectively back the Esquipulas accords and wishes that by 5 November Nicaragua announce the lifting of the state of emergency, amnesty, and all the rest in accordance with the simultaneous framework, the United States would

have to immediately dismantle all the logistical, support, and operations bases and systems used to maintain those counterrevolutionary activities against our country, and it would have to tell the contras to accept amnesty. This is what the United States would have to do. If the United States is concerned with security, then it should also propose bilateral talks with Nicaragua to work these things out and seek ways to normalize relations.

[Reporter] Would we have to (?abide) fully with this process here in Nicaragua until the United States takes this step?

[Ortega] Well, on 5 November we will give more detailed information. We do not want to jump the gun on this matter.

[Reporter] Mr President, some amnesty variations were discussed during the foreign ministers meeting in Costa Rica, such as, for example, lifting the state of emergency. For example, the possibility was discussed of not lifting the state of emergency in the whole country, but perhaps in areas that are more peaceful. Also discussed was the possibility of a general amnesty during which thousands of prisoners would be freed, or a more cautious approach with perhaps hundreds of prisoners being freed. Following last night's FSLN communique, could we expect some variations to these two steps, or are those possibilities entirely out of the question?

[Ortega] On 5 November we will report our position with greater detail.

[Reporter] Comrade President, [name indistinct], TASS. As *The Washington Post* reporter said, this is not the first time you have traveled to the USSR. What do you expect this time from your trip, and what do you expect when you meet with General Secretary Gorbachev?

[Ortega] Our main interest in this trip is to take part in the 70th October Revolution anniversary celebrations. We want to recognize this historic event in humanity's history and recognize the solidarity the Soviet people, government, and leadership have been giving the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] Comrade President, I am from La Voz de Nicaragua. I would like to learn to what extent could we have subsisted without Soviet aid following the U.S. economic blockade, as well as what you have to say about recent press reports trying to turn Nicarguans against the USSR.

[Ortega] The USSR has given our country invaluable cooperation in the face of all the U.S. policies of embargo and blockade. I must also highlight the cooperation received from other socialist countries and cooperation given by Cuba and Latin American countries like Argentina and Brazil. Cooperation also was given by Canada, the Nordic countries, Spain, Italy, and the EEC, as well as by Iran, Libya, and a large number of other countries. We can therefore say that in response to the U.S. policy of blockade and embargo against Nicaragua, there has been a comprehensive response from the international community to help out Nicaragua.

D'Escoto Terms San Jose Meeting 'Excellent'

PA302148 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto has described the results of the Central American foreign ministers meeting that ended in San Jose the night before last as excellent. The participants heard a number of reports and made a number of decisions, the most important of which, according to the Nicaraguan diplomat, deal with the work of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission. [passage omitted]

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto made the following comments on the San Jose meeting:

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto] I think it was an excellent meeting. The most important results are that it was agreed and publicly announced that beginning on 5 November each of the Central American governments will allow an on-site inspection by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission so it can confirm compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements. This is very important. We also approved the special commission's work on matters of simultaneity. This means that 5 November is the obligatory beginning of compliance with the agreements and that this process of simultaneity should be concluded, as much as possible, by the next presidential summit. These are very important things that show the signatory governments' desire to fulfill this Central American agreement.

[Reporter] We notice you are optimistic. Why is this so?

[D'Escoto] I think this progress is very significant. We would have liked to have seen this earlier, but this recognition of the need to fully cooperate with the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission is very important. It is particularly important to us, because Nicaragua is committed to the total and faithful fulfillment of what was agreed upon. We want to prevent people like President Reagan from usurping the role the presidents have given to the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission. Only that commission is authorized to certify how we are progressing, who has complied with the agreement, and who has not. If one really supports the Esquipulas II accords, one would have to start by respecting this aspect of the accords. In other words, the international commission is in charge of verification.

[Reporter] When might this International Verification and Follow-Up Commission arrive in Central America?

[D'Escoto] All the governments have announced their decision, in principle, that beginning on 5 November their countries will be opened to the commission. In reality, however, another meeting on the functioning of the commission will be held in Washington on 7 November. Therefore, we hope that maybe by 17 November all necessary measures will have been taken to guarantee that the commission can start working in the field. In this way we can be ready to issue our first report on the 120th day, when we will meet in New York on 7 December. [end recording]

Meetings at Costa Rican Border Suspended

PA012249 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry in Managua on 30 October]

[Text] The Interior Ministry informs the Nicaraguan people of the Costa Rican Government's refusal to allow Nicaraguans residing in that country to go to the Sapoa border area for meetings aimed at reuniting the Nicaraguan family [words indistinct] that this circumstance has been taken advantage of by unscrupulous people to carry out illegal activities. The ministry confirms the suspension of the meetings at the Costa Rican border and informs all Nicaraguan citizens who wish to visit their relatives in the neighboring country that they must follow the necessary procedures and see the appropriate immigration officials.

Panama

Delvalle Comments on Situation, U.S. Envoy

PA011940 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Nov 87 pp A-1, D-7

[Report on "exclusive" interview with President Eric Arturo Delvalle by James Aparicio at the Presidential Palace on 31 October]

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle told *La Estrella de Panama* yesterday that "we are on our way to becoming what we could call a civilian government in 1989, with no meddling by or old ties to the Defense Forces."

Delvalle, who granted an exclusive interview at his office in the Palace of the Herons to our newspaper, explained that his government's objective is to achieve an "orderly transition" in which the Army's participation in politics will decrease. He said, "This has been gradually fulfilled."

Delvalle pointed out that prior to 1984 the military had ruled for 16 consecutive years. He added that "they were solely responsible for running the country" with the help of many civilians.

"We described this government as a transitional government during the 1984 electoral campaign because we did not think it was prudent to move from a military to a civilian government without an orderly transition," the president said.

"That is the objective of the Defense Forces," said Delvalle, who saw the role of the military men "as more prominent in national life; greater than in 1968, but significantly less than in 1984."

As for an announced withdrawal of the Liberal Party from the National Democratic Union [UNADE] because of the alleged persecution of Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel, Delvalle described his deputy's position as "incongruent."

"Dr Esquivel says things on some occasions, and contradicts himself on others," said Delvalle, who assured us that the Liberal Party "has not withdrawn from UNADE."

"Dr Esquivel cannot withdraw it, the Liberal Party, because there is only one way to do that according to party by-laws, and that procedure has not been followed."

Delvalle was more clear when he stated that "I have at no time clashed with the vice president," but he acknowledged that "we have differed on certain issues." He clarified that Esquivel "stopped attending Cabinet Council meetings and embarked on a campaign against government actions without having the information at hand that we had."

The president said the "United States is not giving a penny to Panama," which has brought about recent adjustments and sacrifices on the part of the government. Delvalle said he believes this "has to a certain extent encouraged the National Civic Crusade."

"I prefer to pass as flippancies," he added, "certain mistakes committed by the U.S. ambassador, such as showing up in places where he should not be in his capacity as ambassador," Delvalle said in reference to Ambassador Arthur Davis, who on various occasions has said his government wishes to see "political changes" and has participated in activities called by the opposition.

Although diplomatic relations between the two governments are "at their lowest point," Delvalle expressed optimism and said, "We do not forsee any kind of sanctions against Panama," in clear reference to a Senate resolution demanding democratic changes to avoid facing economic pressure beginning 9 November.

"I believe we will come up with a domestic policy allowing us to be on good terms with the policy of the United States which has been making efforts to guarantee democrac in all of Latin America," the president said.

When asked about the possible expulsion of U.S. citizens for carrying activities contrary to their diplomatic status, Delvalle ruled out that possibility, which in his opinion is "a very serious step," but he pointed out that "we are increasingly becoming more aggressive in preventing these kinds of activities from taking place again under any circumstances."

Delvalle confessed that he believes in freedom of expression and said that although the reopening of opposition news media—which have been closed since July—depends on the Ministry of Government and Justice, he advocates the reopening of those news media once the Legislative Assembly approves the controversial reforms to the law that regulates the exercise of journalism in our national territory.

Closed Media Will Be Pardoned [subhead]

Delvalle says he supports some of the criticism against the bill, which was approved during the first debate of the Legislative Assembly's Communication and Transportation Commission and which will be discussed a second time on 9 November. He asserted that "there will be no censoring."

"The only thing the Ministry of Government and Justice has been asked to do is prepare some modifications to the law, so any person may request the rectification of any erroneous information against one's honor or person."

Delvalle asked the news media to be "more objective," because, in his opinion, "erroneous information is being used." He also promised to seek a pardon for the closed news media if the Ministry of Government and Justice has not reopened them by the time the bill is approved.

"I shall seek a way to pardon those newspapers so they may reopen, learn what the rules of the game are, and begin to respect everyone—regardless of their political and religious beliefs. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Optimism About the Economy [subhead]

Delvalle analyzed the political crisis that has prevailed in the country for the last 5 months, and he deplored the collapse of the economic recovery and 4-percent growth attained earlier this year. However, he "trusts that the people's confidence will return and the businessmen will be supported with other laws and additional incentives—to see if the country is brought back to where it was 5 months ago."

Asked about the Civic Crusade and the statements made by retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, Delvalle said the statements "were aimed against Diaz Herrera's former comrades-in-arms and were not the correct version." He added that "we will be patient, because time will show that Diaz Herrera's statements were not true."

Even though he admitted that the Civic Crusade also includes honest people who want institutional changes that "many of the people in government also support," he claimed the Civic Crusade "also involves political figures who can hardly wait to seize power and do not want to wait until the 1989 elections, when whoever wins will assume power."

Referring to international issues, Delvalle foresees "many problems" concerning the implementation of the Esquipulas II agreements, but he recognized that "a great effort is being exerted" by El Salvador and Nicaragua. He announced he will call Presidents Napoleon Duarte and Daniel Ortega "to encourage them, because we cannot waste the opportunity to achieve peace."

I trust that peace will be achieved in Central America, but "this will take some time; however, I am sure that we have already attained their political willingness to attain peace," he said.

Delvalle criticized the presence of foreign powers in Central America, "regardless of where they come from," and, he added, "they have nothing to do here because they are only hindering the achievement of a Central American solution."

Regarding the upcoming Latin American presidents summit that will be held on 27-28 November in Mexico City, he said the most important topic will be the foreign debt, and he announced he will present a proposal to organize a cartel to ask the financial organizations to grant easier terms for paying the debt.

Delvalle asserted: "Latin America will not be able to fulfill its development goals or strengthen its democracy if we continue to pay such high interest," and he added that Bolivar's dream about Latin America's independence "cannot be fulfilled because we are still totally dependent on foreign powers. That is why the foreign debt's burden has become so heavy for us."

Catholic Church Criticizes Government

PA011650 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1430 GMT 1 Nov 87

["Open letter" by the "clergy of the Catholic Archdiocese to the Panamanian authorities and people"; date and place not given—live; read by unidentified lay person on national network following televised Catholic mass]

[Text] At this time when our people are celebrating the independence holidays, we, as pastors of the Catholic Church, address you, our fellow citizens, with fraternal

love, to offer not only our words of protest that invite reflection and change in view of certain developments that have taken place and continue to take place among us, but also our humble contribution to the search for solutions and our call of Christian hope for better days for Panama.

What we see: Today we are aggrieved to see a deterioration—which seems to be unstoppable—of all of the country's life. In economic terms there is a strong overall recession in our development, along with its ensuing consequences of growing unemployment, hunger, and all sorts of inhuman limitations for a broad sector of our population. The worst thing is that the economic outlook for the immediate future, according to experts, is truly alarming. When 200,000 people take to the streets because they have nothing to eat, the outlook for social chaos will become a sad reality.

In the field of human rights, its countless violations are felt every day. For example: arbitrary arrests without any sort of legal process; rejection of habeas corpus and writs of amparo; raids and destruction of private property; sending political prisoners to Coiba penal island and the patent denigration of their dignity; the lack of freedom of expression, which is even running the serious risk of becoming the law; the lack of freedom of movement; and, most of all, fostering of a widespread climate of intimidation of the people through clearly repressive threats and attitudes when the people wish to express their unhappiness.

As Catholic pastors, we specifically and most strongly report that during recent developments we were not even allowed to visit political prisoners to provide them our spiritual care. Moreover, we are most deeply concerned to see how clearly violent incidents are increasing every day in our country. These incidents greatly mar our traditional Panamanian way of life. The destruction of a high-tension electricity tower, which had serious consequences for many Panamanians, is something that cannot leave us unconcerned. We feel the same about the deaths of four humble members of the Panamanian Defense Forces, who were victims of a violent electricity discharge within the overall context of the destruction of the tower. That incident is so serious that it merits a most thorough investigation by the authorities. There must also be a very serious investigation into the uprising of the inmates that were being taken to Coiba Island, in which several people were killed and injured; and the blaze at a well-known commercial center in our capital city. If all these things remain hidden and occur with absolute impunity, our country will become a no-man's land, as has happened elsewhere.

To conclude, the current situation has become so unbearable that one often hears in the streets people going so far as hoping for foreign intervention in Panama. As sovereign Panamanians, we obviously reject that. We must find solutions to our problems ourselves. In the face of such an alarming outlook, our prophetic call compels us to make an urgent plea to the Panamanian authorities and people.

We do so because we are convinced, as Ezekiel tells us, that the prophet was sent by God as watchman of His people, to convey the word of God, warn them of their errors, and turn them from their ways. That is why the prophet clearly sounds the trumpet of his message. Ezekiel 33:7-9.

What we ask for: To the Panamanian civil authorities we say: Our brothers, please create as soon as possible the conditions necessary for a true democratization and reconciliation in the country. Show with deeds visible to the people that justice is applied in an effective and impartial manner and that the three branches of the state are truly beginning to be independent in their duties.

View Panama with a general outlook and not with partisan bias. Show real determination to rectify mistakes made. Allow free peaceful expressions. We ask the military authorities to abstain from repressing people demonstrating peacefully and to fulfill the duties mandated them by the national Constitution. We ask the armed institution to respect regular retirement deadlines in keeping with each military rank.

We do not want a people who are resentful and frightened of its Defense Forces. Quite the contrary, we want a people viewing them as the guardians of life and peace, as the fruit of justice. Military compatriots: Think how all Panamanians must view and treat each other as brothers, because we are one people. Your contribution is irreplaceable to bringing about an effective and genuine peace.

We ask the political and economic power centers of the government and the opposition to place common good above personal, partisan, and trade union interests. We urge you to promote social values as well as moral values and to implement projects and programs offering urgent solutions and meeting the needs of the poorest in Panama. In so doing, brothers, we will be building what God, lord of the peoples, wants for Panama: A free and united people.

We urge this country's men and women, who are its most valuable resources, to work toward common good through community organizations. Only by cooperation with each other will we be able to peacefully build a more just and participative society.

Finally, we urge the church itself to grow and change [crecer en conversion] and to achieve greater coherence among what we are, say, and do. We want the genuine interests for Panamanian problems to be an integral part of our Christian life and our evangelization, because only in this way will we be able to contribute to the common good from our specific duties.

Our offer: We, who as pastors must be prominent agents of national reconciliation, in view of the current patriotic festivities offer ourselves to the Panamanian people as mediators in the effort to achieve a peaceful and constructive resolution of the national crisis. This effort must use the foregoing points as its bases and gradually progress toward the search for genuine solutions to our most profound structural problems.

We do not have initial formulas, prescriptions, or technical solutions; we have only our faith in God and the Panamanian people and our hope that the lord of history wants to prevent this country from gradually sinking itself into a self-destructive path. We do not seek personal, ideological, or any other kind of interest. We only wish to see an end of the conflict; we want the sides involved to commit themselves to contributing toward restoring peace and calm in the country.

We do not seek to be protagonists, but humble shephards; that is, builders of bridges facilitating communications. We wish to bring about a meeting of groups involved in the conflict. The liturgical cycle of advent will soon start in our church in preparation for Christmas, which is a time of peace and joy. We hope to arrive at that cycle with a genuine national reconciliation underway.

Peace is God's gift and man's duty; that gift is Jesus Christ, God with us and the prince of peace. He gives us his spirit and brings us into the world to build peace. John 20:19-23.

Let us receive this gift and take on the duty as Mary did; let us have faith in the achievements of man's humble effort when he works with determination with God's help. Luke 1:26-56.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9.

[Signed] Oscar Brown Jimenez, Auxiliary Bishop

Msgr Juan Justavino, Vicar General

Prebyster Luis Andrade, Episcopal Vicar of Western Panama

Jose Luis Lacunza, Auxiliary Bishop

Fernando Guardia, Pastoral Episcopal Vicar

The other bishops and priests who are members of the archdiose's clergy

[Archbishop of Panama Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath is presently out of the country]

Liberal Party Members Disagree With Esquivel

PA301753 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Well-known members of the Liberal Party [PL] have issued a document voicing their disagreement over the party's withdrawal from the UNADE [National Democratic Union] coalition and the expulsion of some members from the party. The communique insists that only the national convention has the power to decide if the party should join a national political alliance or if it should withdraw from any such alliance, as specified in paragraph M, article 17 of the PL bylaws, which reads as follows:

Article 17: The national convention is empowered to:

M. Decide on national political alliances.

In addition, the expulsion of party members—for any reason whatsoever—is not included in the powers granted by the bylaws to the Political Commission. This decision belongs to the discipline tribunal, in the first place, according to Chapter 7, and then to the Political Commission. At any rate, it is necessary that the procedure established in that chapter be followed, and when it is a matter of imposing serious sanctions—such as an expulsion—then there must be a two-thirds vote by the members of the discipline tribunal made up of seven members.

Thus, it is evident that the two actions adopted by the resolution to which we are referring are open violations of specific provisions of the PL statutes, and therefore invalid. The people signing this document feel that there is no foundation for the PL to withdraw from UNADE, inasmuch as the political circumstances and arguments that were voiced in 1984 by Dr Roderick Esquivel and other high-ranking party leaders in order to join UNADE continue to prevail. The party should continue supporting the work being done by President Eric Arturo Delvalle for the benefit of the nation, the document concludes.

Prisoners Offered Leniency for Cooperation

PA301512 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0225 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Panama City, 29 Oct (REUTER)—Seven people who were arrested along with the dissident colonel who touched off the political turmoil that the country has been experiencing for the past 5 months were promised light sentences if they cooperated with a plan to conceal the judicial process, a spokesman for those people said today.

Dalys Vargas, the wife of one of them, said that the seven prisoners were promised light sentences or even a pardon if they agreed to be represented by [words indistinct] in a closed-door trial. "The government is trying to silence this legal process because the publicity would create

resentments," Vargas noted. She added: "I fear for my husband's life, but I want justice through a clean process with an independent lawyer and not merely promises."

The Panamanian Government has denied that prisoners have been mistreated and announced that they will be tried for subversion, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment. Vargas stated that [words indistinct] hinted that the trials could begin in November.

Human rights officials have confirmed that the number of illegal arrests and other violations is increasing in Panama. The country has experienced 5 months of political turmoil aimed at toppling Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The protests began in June when Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, who is being held at a downtown jail, accused Noriega of murders and elections fraud.

Supreme Court Justice Shot to Death

PA020033 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Official sources disclosed today that Supreme Court Justice Camilo Perez Hernandez was shot to death during a tragic incident in a downtown street.

Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, head of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Public Relations Department, reported that Juan Miguel Godoy Hernandez, an 18-year-old private security guard, confessed to the crime. Godoy said he acted in self-defense.

Lopez Grimaldo added that Godoy said he shot the justice because Perez attacked him and threatened him with a pistol without exchanging any words. This incident occurred at 0415 on Saturday.

Perez' sons, Mauro and Giancarlo, demanded a thorough investigation from the authorities. They said they fear this crime will be used for political reasons at a time when there is a fierce power struggle in Panama.

Mauro Perez, a 30-year-old lawyer, reported that several irregularities were committed by the judicial authorities who officially reported the crime to the family after more than 12 hours had passed and after Perez' relatives had made many efforts to find the justice.

The Perez brothers refused to talk about the motives for the crime and noted that they want real justice to prevail.

Maj Lopez Grimaldo said that, according to preliminary investigations, the authorities do not know what the justice could have been doing in front of the Panama Hotel, in the downtown area, at that time of night. The only identification Perez carried at the time of the incident was his identification number engraved on the butt of his pistol, a 38-caliber Smith and Wesson.

Lopez Grimaldo reported that, according to Godoy, Perez slapped him and aimed his pistol at him without saying anything. Godoy defended himself with a club but lost it in the struggle. He then shot the justice in the chest.

Lopez Grimaldo said the initial investigation by the FDP's DENI [National Department of Investigation] has already ended, and the case has been turned over to the prosecutor.

Perez' sons said Godoy's statement is strange and added that it is unbelievable because the incident is not in keeping with the behavior of the justice, who never resorted to violence.

They said that when they went to identify the body at the Santo Tomas Hospital's morgue, Perez had not even been identified. They added that identifications cards were missing from their father's wallet, but Perez' jewerly was on his body. They said that Perez used to carry a pistol strapped to his ankle and that he could not have had time to pull it out, if one is to go by Godoy's account.

In addition, there were blood stains in the building next to the site of the incident, and this was not mentioned in Godoy's testimony.

Perez, who was 58 years old, was one of nine Supreme Court justices. He had been a journalist and was a WPC vice president.

Perez' relatives demand a thorough investigation but do not want the incident to be used politically.

Opposition Questions Report

PA020155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Washington, 1 Nov (EFE)—Members of the Panamanian opposition said here today that the official report on the murder of Panamanian Supreme Court Justice Camilo Perez Hernandez "creates more questions than answers."

Eduardo Vallarino, vice president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, told EFE "this murder follows the same pattern as those of former Education Minister Hugo Spadafora and Serafin Mitrioti president of the Panama Rotary Club."

Vallarino, who is also a member of the opposition Civic Crusade, expressed skepticism about the government version of the facts when compared to the circumstances surrounding Perez Hernandez' death.

According to a government spokesman, the 58-year-old justice—one of the most independent-minded of the nine Supreme Court members—was shot to death during a "tragic incident" on a street in downtown Panaman

City. The spokesman added that the justice's private bodyguard, 18-year-old Juan Miguel Godoy Hernandez, has confessed to the crime, alleging self-defense.

Vallarino stressed that the justice, who on Thursday had publicly criticized the minister of justice's position on the press law, disappeared the next day—without the family knowing of his whereabouts and the government denying he was under arrest—and was found murdered on Saturday. Vallarino said the authorities have not yet offered an explanation for the justice's death, which occurred at 0430 Saturday.

Aurelio Barria, another Civic Crusade leader, said Perez Hernandez's murder is "very serious" and "shows the critical political situation" in Panama.

The justice's sons, Mauro and Giancarlo, have demanded the authorities launch a "thorough investigation" of the murder.

Argentina

Spanish Prime Minister Continues Visit

Addresses Congress

PY301320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2017 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA)—Addressing the Argentine Congress, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez today stated that he will continue "to insist on the need for dialogue between creditor and debtor countries" in order to reach a point of "convergence, consistent with everyone's legitimate interests."

Gonzalez warned that in a democracy "the future is forged on the basis of making efforts and not on miracles."

In a 37-page speech addressed to deputies and senators, Gonzalez said that "democracy is neither a luxury nor a cure-all," and recognized the efforts made by the Latin American nations in their "necessary economic and financial adjustments."

Gonzalez mentioned "the gloomy prospects" presented by the creditors concerning the debt issue.

Gonzalez said that "Spain alone does not have the key to solve this problem," and urged "the preservation of the international financial system." He said that the relationship between Latin America and the EEC is "troubled, in the Argentine case, by the territorial disputes" with the United Kingdom.

Gonzalez acknowledged the Argentine "willingness" to peacefully settle the Malvinas issue. He expressed support for this, saying that he hoped the "Argentine motives are taken into consideration and that the UN resolutions are observed, thus restoring Argentine territorial integrity."

The Spanish prime minister occasionally stopped reading his speech to refer to the Pact of Moncloa, stating that pact's policy became a way of coexistence among the Spanish citizens because no one who favors or opposes political agreements could reject the commitments reached in 1977.

In his welcome speech to the Spanish prime minister, Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez said that Argentina "must combat an inflation rate that has been appropriately called reactionary."

Nevertheless, Martinez noted that the same could be said for "the protectionist measures and the interest rates on the foreign debt that favor the strong and damage the weak."

Martinez also said that "Argentina and her sister Latin American nations have been experiencing a deterioration that is not commensurate with the justice we demand and that threatens the existence of an effective democracy."

Martinez further warned that "it is an indispensable necessity to draw up and reach an agreement with the EEC which would be implemented in Latin America."

Gonzalez then said that a dialogue between the two continents "would demand from Latin America an effort to seek unity in order to emphasize its desire for unity to the rest of the world."

Gonzalez pointed out that "in this world there is no room for autarkic attitudes holding that only the large groups of nations have something to say in the international arena."

Gonzalez admitted that "Latin American nations are no longer producing enough trade balance surpluses to service the debt and this fact is forcing them to hold negotiations on rescheduling their payments."

However, this "does not solve the core of the problem," he added. Gonzalez criticized the creditors that "merely propose technical and theoretical solutions to the debt problem."

Gonzalez mentioned "some important steps including an EEC general statement on the relationship between Latin America and the EEC and a meeting recently held in New York between European foreign ministers and the member countries of the Group of Eight (Contadora and the Contadora Support Group, which includes Argentina). [as received]

Discussion of the foreign debt issue and the European-Latin American relationship constituted exactly half of his speech. The first portion of the speech largely referred to the similarity between the democratic transitions in Argentina and Spain.

Gonzalez especially expressed his gratitude at the fact that Argentina has hosted 2 million Spaniards who emigrated from 1880 to 1940 to escape "poverty, social unjustice, and political intolerance."

In this portion of the speech, Gonzalez defined himself as a socialist in keeping with a concept expressed by the Spanish thinker Indalecio Prito: "I, a socialist with a strong human sense, loathe a military state, that is, anything which oppresses individual liberty or personal consciences."

Gonzalez also expressed his recognition of the fact that Buenos Aires was a "point of convergence" for Spanish artists after the [Spanish] Civil War and Francoism [Franquismo], and described this as "pilgrim Spain."

Gonzalez praised Argentine writers Julio Cortazar, Jorge Luis Borges, and Manuel Mujica Lainez for contributing to the "formation of the Spanish spirit."

Foreign Ministers Sign Agreements

PY301124 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA)—Argentina and Spain today signed agreements for the "transfer of criminals," and for "social and labor cooperation programs." According to Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, these agreements will further strengthen the two countries' bilateral relations.

The two agreements were signed by the foreign ministers during a short ceremony in Caputo's offices at the Foreign Ministry. The two ministers had lunch together and later held a meeting "to evaluate some pending problems and to analyze bilateral issues," Fernandez-Ordonez said.

Fernandez-Ordonez expressed his "satisfaction" over Spanish-Argentine bilateral relations which "are becoming deeper and more extensive."

The agreement over the transfer of criminals will "favor the rehabilitation" of prisoners sentenced to jail.

The agreement makes it possible for a citizen of one of the two countries condemned in the other country to serve his sentence in his homeland.

The document comprises 18 articles regulating the exchange, and will have an indefinite duration. It could be terminated, however, by written notification through diplomatic channels.

The "special agreement for the development of social and labor cooperation programs" establishes the proper framework for professional exchanges and determines the responsibilities of the executive organizations."

The Argentine executive organizations will be the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET), and the Secretariat of Cooperative Action.

The Spanish executive organizations will be the Ministry of Labor and Social Security represented by the International Social Relations Office with the support and cooperation of its departments, and their autonomous and dependent organizations.

This agreement, which among other things establishes the granting of scholarships, contains articles establishing conditions for the development of professional exchanges. It will be conditionally effective from 1 January 1988.

The agreement will be operational from the moment the two parties notify the other of the fulfillment or their respective constitutional requirements.

It will have an indefinite duration, but it may be unilaterally canceled, with 6 months' previous notification, without affecting programs being implemented, except when their cancelation is explicitly stipulated.

Meets With CGT Leader

PY311903 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Oct 87 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez met last night with General Confederation of Labour (CGT) Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini who later said he told the Spanish statesman he did not share his views on the foreign debt.

Ubaldini, who was closeted with Gonzalez for 45 minutes, said he made it clear to the Spanish prime minister that the CGT favoured a moratorium in contrast with Gonzalez' stance that a solution to the foreign debt had to be worked out peacefully between debtor and creditor nations.

The CGT leader said Gonzalez invited him to visit Spain to study the labour problems there and to seek links between the labour movements in both countries.

Ubaldini said they had gone over the differences between the Spanish government and the General Worker's Union (UGT) and stressed that they had been able to speak on specific labour problems because Gonzalez was a lawyer specializing in labour questions.

But they did not touch on the 12-hour general strike the CGT has called for next Wednesday "because this is an Argentine problem that has to be settled between we Argentines," Ubaldini said.

Earlier, Gonzalez said Spain would support whatever decision Argentina took to solve its foreign debt problem, adding that Spain would also accept the consequences of its decision.

Speaking at a luncheon in his honour attended by some 2,000 members of the Spanish community in Buenos Aires, Gonzalez urged Argentines not to lose confidence in the economic recovery of their country and told Spanish businessmen to have faith in Argentina "because things will go well for it."

Gonzalez, who arrived here on Wednesday for a five day visit, was accompanied by President Raul Alfonsin at the luncheon at the stadium of the Deportivo Espanol first division soccer club. [passage omitted]

In the evening, Gonzalez hosted Alfonsin at a dinner at the Spanish Embassy and in his after-dinner speech Alfonsin blasted the international financial system.

The President said the matter would be dealt with at the summit meeting he would be holding with seven other Latin American heads of state in Mexico next month which would clearly define the situation.

Referring to the debacle in the U.S. markets Alfonsin said it was difficult to understand how in the stock markets of one city in a few hours more money went up into the air than it took 30 million Argentines eight years to produce.

Earlier in the day a 50-million-dollar credit was granted by Spain to Argentina for the purchase of capital goods in Spain.

Alfonsin Hosts Dinner

PY010057 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1150 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Oct (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin has said the Latin American countries will continue to act with responsibility in their relations with the international economic system, but he warned: "Our first commitment is to the democratic system." Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez indicated that "Spanish integration with the EEC will not weaken our friendly links to the Latin American people."

The two presidents [as received] delivered speeches last night during a dinner given by Gonzalez to honor President Alfonsin at the Spanish Embassy in this capital.

President Alfonsin delivered an energetic speech, stressing two points: the economic situation of the developing countries as a result of the foreign debt, and the similarity of the call made by his government this week to the Moncloa Pact, signed in Spain in 1977.

Regarding the first point, Alfonsin said the industrialized countries realize that "the instability of the North affects the security of the North." He made a call "for changing the rules of the game" because "the time has come for clear proposals based on reality."

Alfonsin questioned the international financial system, and noted what happened on Wall Street last week, when "the losses of a few hours amounted to more than what all Argentine workers can produce in 8 years."

Alfonsin added: "Reality depends on money, and money has lost contact with reality."

Alfonsin called for international solidarity but "not the kind that is easy to get," such as that from countries that are no longer democracies.

He then pointed out that the countries of the South have suffered the effects of instability because "the weak suffer first." He said the countries of the North are also beginning to feel the effects of instability.

Regarding the government's call for agreement with the opposition political forces, Alfonsin stressed its similitary to the Moncloa Pact, stating that the results of the 6 September elections made the Argentine political leadership realize the need "to reach a concrete understanding."

Alfonsin added: "Your country taught us the method, and we must hope a similar pact can yet be implemented here."

In the first part of his speech, Alfonsin said: "Argentina is traversing a difficult but sure path." He added: "This is not the time to be discouraged, but rather to overcome the challenge."

Felipe Gonzalez said: "The relations between Spain and Argentina are excellent but the fact that there are no problems in bilateral relations is not enough. We should have greater awareness of Argentine problems."

Gonzalez said: "Better links between Argentine and Spanish institutions will help improve dialogue between Argentina and Europe." He added: "Spain's integration with the EEC is not going to weaken the friendly ties with Latin America."

Felipe Gonzalez said solidarity and mutual cooperation should be strengthened, and he reaffirmed that his government shares Argentina's "rational and responsible" position regarding the foreign debt.

Gonzalez said: "My country is a witness of the courageous task being carried out by President Alfonsin to strengthen democratic institutions." He labeled as "unjust" the foreign trade, the fall of international agricultural prices, and the foreign debt of the developing countries.

He concluded by saying: Spain "appreciates the peace efforts" Argentine diplomacy is making by being a member of the Contadora Support Group, as well as Argentina's "decision to solve the sovereignty issue over the Malvinas Islands by peaceful means."

Holds News Conference

LD312054 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is touring Latin America, has now concluded his official visit to Argentina. He will now spend a few hours on a private visit to Iguazu and will go on to Uruguay tomorrow, Sunday. In Buenos Aires, the Spanish prime minister gave a news conference at which he said he is optimistic about—and described as a great decision—the UGT's [General Union of Workers] intention to negotiate an agreement in Spain with the employers. When speaking to reporters about his visit to Argentina, Felipe Gonzalez said that he accepts the commitment of sharing with this republic its decision on the external debt. At another

point he spoke about terrorism and about the fact that his government would not give in to terrorist blackmail. On the line is our special correspondent, Carlos Agrasar:

[Agrasar] Good evening from Buenos Aires, the capital of the Argentine Republic which Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez left a few hours ago after holding a news conference in the Golden Room of the Plaza Hotel, which was his headquarters during his stay. He is now at the Iguazu waterfalls on a private visit. This news conference was the first opportunity Spanish reporters had to speak to Prime Minister Gonzalez since he arrived in Argentina last Wednesday and, naturally, the questions from Spanish journalists centered on the situation in Spain. [passage omitted] Felipe Gonzalez denied the speculation of the past few days to the effect that the Madrid government would negotiate with ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] representatives in Algiers:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] You already know that the Spanish Government said publicly that it is willing to have contacts that will facilitate a solution to the violence, as long as such contacts are not interpreted as political negotiations. This has been the position, it is the position today, and it will continue to be so because it is my obligation, one that is not renounceable or transferrable, to try to eliminate terrorism and, natuarlly, not to give in to terrorist blackmail in political terms, but, yes, to facilitate recovery of a definitive climate of peace in coexistence between us. [end recording]

[Agrasar] Prime Minister Gonzalez declined to explain the content of the new stance by the Argentine Government for solving the debt problem because this, of course, is for President Alfonsin's government to do. Moreover, we do not know the details of this new stance; however, it seems it has to do with reducing interest rates. What the Spanish leader did say is that Spain will bring the Argentine or Latin American stance before all those forums where it is necessary or possible.

Regarding speculation about the imminent departure from the government of Minister of Economy and Finance Carlos Solchaga, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez replied with a resolute defense of his economic policy:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] No doubt we often make mistakes, no doubt as all governments do. But we are reasonably confident—reasonably confident—that we are doing what must be done and, of course, for the time being the results confirm that what we have done is positive. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on News Conference

LD020351 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1230 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was cautious about the problem of Argentina's external debt at his appearance before journalists at a briefing which ended his official stay. Prime Minister Gonzalez said that the problem of the gradual increase in interest on the external debt, higher than that formerly maintained, should be tackled differently, as the government of Raul Alfonsin maintains. For lack of more in-depth knowledge of the Argentine Government's position, the Spanish prime minister expressed his initial support for the Argentine proposal for making more flexible the conditions on servicing the debt. Prime Minister Gonzalez said:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] As for the debt problem, I have said over the last few days what I believe I had to say, among other things because it is the Argentine Government's place to define the proposal and (?to do that). I believe the Argentine Government will also do this with the other heads of state whom they meet in Acapulco in a few days' time.

Therefore, I have given a clear outline of our position on this proposal. I will repeat it here: I believe the Argentine Government has given some thought to a possible answer to the debt problem, which among other things includes different treatment of the interest problem; and it talks about what are called traditional interest rates, avoiding variations that have been very harmful to the interests of debtor countries. The effects, from an economic point of view, are similar to other formulae which will probably not be [word indistinct] from an international point of view.

So, the Argentine Government, which I think has made an accurate presentation of the debt problem, did not do so directly at the negotiating table. We have accepted this expose as accurate and reasonable from the Spanish point of view, in the full knowledge that despite the fact that Argentina seeks this, Spain cannot bilaterally settle the debt problem. Virtually no government has put this on the negotiating table before the Argentine Government, but Argentina naturally knows that the debt problems are negotiated at various fora, whether at the Paris Club, the IMF, or other multilateral international fora. Thus (?it should) not believe there is a bilateral solution to the debt problem.

I would furthermore like to make it clear that not only does this proposal seem reasonable to us, but also that once it has been formulated in its entirety by the Argentine Government, [word indistinct] the facts that we know, Spain will respond favorably, agreeing with the basis of the proposal, and will ensure that this proposal is heard, to the best of our ability, at the international fora in which we participate. [end recording]

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is spending this weekend in Argentina on a private visit. Tonight the president of the Republic of Argentina, Raul Alfonsin, will host a farewell dinner that will end Gonzalez' stay in this country. Afterward, the Spanish prime minister will leave for Uruguay, where he will pay an official visit.

Spain Grants $50-Million Credit for Imports

PY311751 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2038 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (TELAM)—A $50-million credit agreement was signed today between the National Development Bank (BANADE) and Spain's Official Credit Institute (ICO) to finance imports of capital goods from Spain and projects that Spanish companies will carry out in Argentina.

The ceremony was presided over by Foreign Trade Secretary Juan Ciminari and the presidents of BANADE and ICO, Christian Colombo and Miguel Muniz de las Cuevas, respectively.

These credits will cover 100 percent of the FOB value of the capital goods to be imported. These credits will be reimbursed over a period of 7 years, with a 3-year grace period. In the case of projects involving specific Spanish companies, the financing will be up to 20 years, including 5 years' grace before beginning the payment of the principal, Colombo stated.

This line of credit was granted by Spain to the Argentine Government within the framework of its credit-aid program, with an interest rate of 3 percent yearly for imports of capital goods. This interest can be even lower when dealing with very large projects.

Miguel Bein, under secretary for small- and medium-sized companies, explained that these credits will be available next year, that they are earmarked for small- and medium-sized companies, and that local banks may reach agreements with BANADE to participate in them.

Moreover, the foreign trade and industry secretary will be charged with establishing the guidelines for enterprises that will receive these credits and ths subsequent preselection of projects that meet those guidelines.

Sourrouille Cited on Economic Policy Issues

PY311857 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Oct 87 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN) Cordoba—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille said here on Thursday night that the government's economic policy "is not negotiable," adding that no changes in his team are being considered.

Sourrouille made these statements at a press conference held after his intervention in [appearance at] the 8th forum for provincial legislators on economic policy, which is taking place in this city.

The minister described as "encouraging" the first results of the anti-inflationary plan, and added that "in spite of a few disagreements over the instrumental measures, an overall support for the plan has been perceived."

He pointed out that the currency exchange market has reacted reasonably well and that interest rates registered a significant decrease, although he admitted that they are still above the desired level.

Contrasting these optimistic statements Sourrouille warned that there will still be "some difficult moments to go through," referring to the October figures on the cost of living, which, he said, will reflect a lag from the previous month.

Regarding the increase in the tax burden, he explained that this measure was absolutely necessary for the short run, in order to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Nevertheless, he stressed that the permanent solution lies in the measures adopted to promote the development of private economic activity.

Finally, Sourrouille gave his tacit support to Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn by saying that the accounts presented by the government on the federal revenue sharing system were correct, adding that no changes in the economic team are being considered.

Bolivia

Bomb Explodes at Mining Ministry; 1 Wounded

PY301402 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] One person was wounded during a terrorist attack last night. A bomb exploded at 2300, near the back door of the Mining and Metallurgy Ministry, seriously wounding a man and causing property damage.

The wounded man, who must be about 25 years old and whose name is Luis Monroy, was seriously injured in his left arm, leg, and foot.

A police patrol coming from 16 de Julio Avenue arrived 5 minutes after the explosion, and took Monroy to an emergency medical center and later to a hospital.

The bomb exploded near the right door of the building, next to the Hotel Plaza. It destroyed the wrought iron and steel plate door. Pieces of the door were scattered about 15 metres toward the gardens of the Paseo del Prado Boulevard. Many windows of the Mines and Metallurgy Ministry and of nearby buildings were broken as a result of the explosion.

The bomb squad of the La Paz Police Department arrived 10 minutes afterward to investigate the bomb used in the explosion. Police have informed the media that a report will be released in a few hours after laboratory tests have been done on the bomb fragments. I do not want to give a hasty opinion about the type of bomb; it all depends on the laboratory tests, the policeman said.

The bomb also damaged some cars parked on 16 de Julio Avenue. They were pierced and dented and suffered other minor damage from iron pieces of the door flying through the air. There is a possibility the bomb was a grenade. Policemen from police patrol No 110 reported that a few minutes before the bomb squad personnel arrived, some members of the U.S. embassy security staff arrived to take some samples of the scattered debris.

Government To Solve Problem of Miners

PY310243 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] The government will solve the problem of relocated miners in the next few days. This will allow the miners to abandon San Francisco Square, where they have been protesting against the governemnt.

Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal stressed that the government wishes to solve the problem by answering the miners' demands without harming the country.

Bedregal also said the MNR security organizations were able to detect a subversive movement stemming from the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR. Bedregal said a coup in the present situation would constitute a catastrophe that would destroy the present hard-won stability obtained through the democratic process.

COB Announces Break in Ties With Government

PY301955 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0618 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] La Paz, 28 Oct (EFE)—The COB today announced that relations between workers and the government will be severed because the government has rejected the list of petitions presented by the country's main labor union organization.

COB leaders have criticized the government's response to their labor demands, and stated that under these conditions, it is not possible to consider a future dialogue with the authorities.

These sources added that they will submit for the consideration of the rank and file a plan to defend the socioeconomic demands presented in the list of petitions.

The COB requested an across-the-board salary increase; reactivation of the nationalized mining sector; preservation of state enterprises; the payment of a lay-off bonus to the unemployed; and an increase in budgets for the education, public health, and other sectors.

The government rejected, however, the possibility of increasing current minimum salaries ($25 monthly). It stated that it is trying to create new job opportunities and that the economic crisis cannot be attributed to its policy, but rather stems from previous administrations. It added that the education and health sectors have adequate budgets.

The COB will hold a general meeting of national leaders on 4 November to thoroughly study the government position and to adopt measures within the framework of the announced labor defense program.

Private Banks Declare Insolvency Over Debt

PY301511 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0310 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] La Paz, 29 Oct (EFE)—The Bolivian private banks have declared themselves insolvent before international creditors, and it is believed that, for this reason, they can no longer obtain credit abroad.

Luis Eduardo Siles, president of the Bolivian Private Banks Association (ASOBAN), told the press that the private banks' debt, which was endorsed by the Bolivian Government, amounts to $47 million.

Siles said the private financial enterprises are waiting for a solution to the problem of their debt because until this happens, they cannot obtain the new credits that they need for their economic reactivation.

Siles believes that the Bolivian private banks are not in a position to meet the domestic demand for credits because national savings are insufficient.

Argentine Payment for Gas Purchases Reported

PY301959 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0433 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] La Paz, 30 Oct (TELAM/EFE)—Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal reported here today that the Argentine Government has paid Bolivia $41 million, partial payment of its 1987 debt for the purchase of Bolivian gas.

The Bolivian minister said: "Raul Alfonsin's government is strictly complying with the agreement, which is very commendable."

The $41 million was deposited yesterday in Buenos Aires to be transferred to the Bolivian Central Bank account in accordance with the contract signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries on 29 September 1987.

In the contract, Argentina promised to pay two installments of $22.6 million and one of $17.8 million in 1987, and $245 million in 1988.

Bedregal said: After "negotiating the gas issue," Bolivia and Argentina are getting ready to negotiate "the creation of mechanisms to improve integration between the two countries."

The Bolivian foreign minister will visit Buenos Aires in mid-November. Bedregal said this visit "is extremely important because we will then discuss a much more important matter."

Brazil

Commission Approves Parliamentary System

PY310048 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The Systematization Commission today approved the parliamentary system of Government. The commission first voted on an amendment establishing the presidential system of government. Senator Alfonso Arinos from the PFL, leader of the supporters of the parliamentary system, presided over the session. Arinos went to the podium to defend the parliamentary system. Everyone in the hall was listening carefully. When he finished, he received a standing ovation from his supporters. Those supporting the presidential system did not like what was going on, and Carlos Sant'anna, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, defended his views on the presidential system. Immediately after Carlos Sant'anna's speech, Constituent Assembly members began to vote. The balloting was quick, and supporters of the parliamentary system outvoted supporters of the presidential system, 57 to 36. Bernardo Cabral's constitutional proposal was thus upheld. Parliamentary system supporters were not yet fully satisfied, and proposed to improve Cabral's proposal even further.

During the afternoon, the Systematization Commission also approved a proposal for a parliamentary system with direct election of the president in two rounds, the separation of the president from party politics from the moment of his election to the presidency, and a 5-year term.

Carlos Sant'anna, with the support of the PT, tried to postpone the vote, but he failed. [passage omitted]

Sarney on Vote

PY311356 Brasilia Radio National da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Report Ireneu Tamanini]

[Text] President Jose Sarney believes the presidential system of government will be approved by the Constituent Assembly.

Although the Constituent Assembly Systematization Commission yesterday approved the parliamentary system of government, President Sarney believes the presidential system will receive the 280 votes necessary for its approval [by the Constituent Assembly as a whole]. This statement was made by Planalto Palace Press Secretary Antonio Frota Netto, commenting on the decision by the Systematization Commission regarding the government system for Brazil after the promulgation of the future constitution.

[Begin Netto recording] President Sarney believes that when this matter is taken before the Constituent Assembly plenum, the presidential system of government will be approved, because the president believes this is the system that best suits the national needs. [end recording]

Frota Netto added that from the very beginning of the Constituent Assembly deliberations, President Sarney has adopted a position in favor of the current government system.

[Begin Netto recording] The president is convinced that the presidential system best meets the national interests. Moreover, the president of the Republic, as chief of government and chief of state, has to defend what he thinks is best for the country, which is the presidential system. [end recording]

According to President Sarney, most members of the Constituent Assembly will vote for the presidential system of government.

Government Announces Changes in Economic Targets

PY310229 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] today announced the October inflation rate, the highest since the implementation of the Bresser plan. The October inflation rate was 9.18 percent, while the accumulated inflation between January 1987 and October 1987 was 261.8 percent. In the past 12 months, the accumulated inflation rate was 300.8 percent, a record. This means prices quadrupled in 1 year. [passage omitted]

Speaking in Brasilia, Finance Minister Luis Bresser Pereira said inflation is under control.

[Begin Bresser Pereira recording, in progress]... it is normal to have a certain increase in the inflation rate. The relative prices... when the emergency plan was drawn up— that is the so-called Bresser plan, the price freeze, right?—[Bresser changes sentence pattern]...that was an emergency plan, when the economy was in chaos, the relative prices were totally (?out of control), some prices were very high, others very low. Consequently, inflation will grow whenever low prices are readjusted. We do have a problem, which we are trying to solve with firmness and tranquillity. [end recording]

The first changes in the government's plan of targets has been announced. Bresser today gave Sarney a list of the new macroeconomic plan targets. The minister said these changes are:

Inflation: The macroeconomic plan estimated low, stable rates, but with the end of the price freeze, the inflation rate will grow and is expected to stabilize under 10 percent monthly after February 1988.

The plan estimated 5-percent GNP growth for this year. But since the industrial sector's productivity has been lower than expected, the new GNP growth target was changed to 3.5 or 4 percent.

However, the trade surplus surpassed expectations. The $8.6-billion surplus that was expected for this year rose to $10.2 billion. The government has not changed its objective of maintaining the public deficit at 3.5 percent of the GNP, although the administration concedes that there is strong pressure and that the target percentage could be slightly surpassed.

Salaries: The government believes that until September it managed to maintain the purchasing power of salaries at the same levels prevailing in 1985. Now the government's concern centers around the real salary increases, beyond 10 percent. [passage omitted]

PMDB Appoints Acting Leader in Chamber

PY291225 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] PMDB Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro, Rio Grande do Sulstate, will be the acting PMDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies until February 1987 [year as heard]. This was decided by PMDB vice leaders and coordinators of the different blocs at a meeting held yesterday. Deputy Antonio Brito has said that this is a good decision. [passage omitted]

Military Supports Democratic Transition

PY311358 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Moreira Lima stated yesterday that the military has adopted a firm position of support for the democratic transition, and that there is no reason to think of coups. He stated: Whoever tries to destabilize this government will be in a very tenuous position.

Moreira Lima added that the nation can rest assured that the Armed Forces will not allow anyone to disrupt institutional order.

Sarney Discusses Present Situation With FOLHA

PY292237 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Oct 87 p A 5

["Exclusive" interview with Brazilian President Jose Sarney by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO correspondent Boris Casoy on 27 October at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia]

[Text] *Folha*: Mr. President, during your recent radio and television address you hinted that you were going to make a deep-rooted change in your cabinet. This comment even created great expectations regarding the administrative reform. However, nothing was confirmed. What happened?

Sarney: Let us get things straight. I addressed the nation over television as soon as the Democratic Alliance was dissolved. The core of my speech was precisely that the government needed a majority to support it and to support some of the programatic points of the so-called "Development and Transition" document. The PMDB Executive Board met immediately and voiced its support for the document and also decided to support the government. It decided to grant the government the majority support and participation it needed. The PFL, through its majority in Congress, signed a document also voicing its support to the government. The governors also met and followed suit. Therefore, the government received the necessary political support. The changes I was supposed to make where changes sparked by the need to have a congressmen in the cabinet to allow greater integration between the Congress and the executive branch, which would allow Congress to more clearly see the problems the executive branch faces.

I think the cabinet reshuffle has strengthened the government's congressional support. That is important. As for the administrative reforms, they have been implemented since the beginning of this administration. I believe we have eliminated more than 20 public organizations. I am not aware of any other government in the history of Brazil that has been so concerned about improving the administration. Who would have dared to dismantle the BNH [National Housing Bank]? Who would have dared to dismantle the Incra [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement]? We did it. We will close our 3d year in office without hiring any new employees. The federal government has not hired anyone. On the contrary, we reduced our manpower by 18,000. We have maintained a strict personnel control system and we have not hired anyone and, at the same time, all these years we worked for modernizing the administration. I can announce—tomorrow is public servant's day—that we are submitting to Congress a bill on a system of professional careers for federal employees, basing promotions on personal merit and enforcing training courses.

At the same time, we will dedicate the national public service school, that will begin operating as of now. These are very important steps leading to the improvement of the administration. An administrative reform cannot be implemented overnight. An administrative reform entails a change of mentality. I gave considerable thought to the idea of introducing deep changes in the administrative structure of the country, but I concluded that the disadvantages would have outweighed the advantages. A government that is in the middle of its term, or that has already passed the middle of its term, cannot afford to break into great, administrative blocks, under penalty of loosing its coordination. This objective should be part of a government program. What we are doing is implementing the administrative reform in

some very important sectors. Obviously, this reform will yield the basic guidelines for an overall reform that the governments to come must undertake. As I said, the administrative reform is not a task that can be undertaken by a single government; it is a task for several governments. *Folha*: Some people believe that in the end you found support from the same political forces that were already supporting you, except for the leftist sector of the PMDB. Is this true?

Sarney: I found support in the same forces because those are the forces that exist in Congress. I tried to increase my support base, but evidently I did not. I have no intention of leaving out the left because I believe that if we had the chance to make a government of national unity it would be ideal for the country. It would also favor our political national development projects. However, I believe that a government should obtain all the support it can get. The support we can get is that which we are receiving from the PMDB and the PFL, without excluding anyone. I also believe that we could obtain the support of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] *Folha*: And the PFL?

Sarney: I have great friends and colleagues in the PFL.Everyone knows perfectly well that those friends helped us during our initial struggle, when we all supported Tancredo Neves; I hope they reach an agreement on 29 October and that they support the government. *Folha*: The government plan to curb inflation seems to be wearing thin. Inflation estimates are not encouraging. What can you say about this?

Sarney: I can say that we are working earnestly on this. Minister Bresser has lived up to the country's expectations. Evidently, Brazil is part of a world which is not living through one of its best economic moments. Besides, even though the government controls aspects it is responsible for, it cannot control those aspects pertaining the rest of society; that is, the price increase index. We can only control some prices. We cannot control the salary increases, and the fares of our public services are unrealistic. The state is increasingly losing its investment capacity. This is a very serious situation which must be evaluated carefully. Like Minister Bresser says, we must understand that there is no use in increasing salaries to keep up with ever-increasing inflation, because inflation will always run ahead of salaries. We have shown this. When I assumed the presidency, we had salary adjustments every 6 months. By then our greatest aspiration was to make salary adjustments every 3 months. Now, we are making adjustments every month, and we see workers losing more money than when we did it twice a year. This happened because inflation has climbed so high that it totally devalued salaries. The real increases were completely cancelled out by inflation. I believe that the Bresser Plan is facing the obvious difficulties of an economy like ours. However, I hope that we will overcome those difficulties. *Folha*: And what about the foreign debt negotiations?

Sarney: They are under way. The government is trying to reach an accord on the foreign debt in the shortest possible time. When we adopted the moratorium, we did it to preserve our reserves. It was not a political decision, but an attitude that was aimed at preserving the interest of Brazil and, at the same time, at strengthening our balance of trade. Today, we have already achieved those two objectives: even though our reserves did not increase, they have been stabilized, and we have resumed our export pace. The foreign debt has prevented us from having our own share of the world market. This is the time for reaching an accord, because this is in the interest of Brazil. This is in our own interest. By no means do we intend to postpone the foreign debt agreement. *Folha*: There have been persistent rumors that Finance Minister Bresser Pereira has not always enjoyed government support. Is this true?

Sarney: No, it is not. There has never been a single instance in which he did not have our support. On the contrary, we have always openly praised and supported him, and we have always supported his decisions. He has always had all the necessary support to fulfill his duties. *Folha*: In the last few days there have been signs of unrest in the military. What measures have been adopted? What is happening?

Sarney: The military sector has behaved impeccably. It has guaranteed the democratic transition process. As I have already said, we have implemented the democratic transition process, not against the military but with their support. The military has helped implement the transition process. The military has safeguarded national peace so that Brazilians could carry out the political debate they have experienced. We have held elections, and the entire country has been submerged in an intense political debate. We are living in an atmosphere of complete freedom; the country has never enjoyed such freedom. Brazilians are also implementing a new constitution. This is the framework that characterizes the transition process. This entire transition process is difficult. But the Armed Forces have behaved impeccably in this regard and they have helped carry out this process. Moreover, I do not see any signs in the Armed Forces that demonstrate that problems exist. We are witnessing the fact that many people wish to see the Armed Forces become involved in the political process. But the Armed Forces have already separated themselves from the political process. Today, they are devoted to carrying out their professional duties, safeguarding the national institutions, and maintaining order. *Folha*: How can we classify recent incidents,such as the Apucarana incident, for example?

Sarney: That was an isolated incident involving one individual. *Folha*: Is the regrouping of rightist sectors an issue of concern?

Sarney: No it is not. I do not think it is an issue of concern. If rightist sectors wish to be part of the political scene, they have that right. But if they want to undermine the political scene, that is a different issue. The

government is prepared to safeguard the institutions and the democratic process. *Folha*: Some of your advisers have criticized the Constituent Assembly and analysts believe they were merely complying with your orders, that they were acting on your behalf. To what extent do your advisers reflect your thoughts regarding the Constituent Assembly?

Sarney: I have not entrusted anyone to send messages on my behalf. It so happens that the national Constituent Assembly is discussing the new constitution and this constitution affects all Brazilians. Since the Constituent Assembly itself has established that with sufficient popular backing anyone can amend the constitution, everyone feels it is his duty as a citizen to give an opinion. Therefore, I cannot stop an adviser from giving an opinion on something that will have a fundamental impact on his daily life, on that of his children, and even of his grandchildren. At any rate, I think any criticism of the constitution is constructive criticism because it compels constituents to think about whether or not these criticisms are valid. All Brazilians are debating the constitution as is natural. I do not send anyone with messages, but I cannot stop an adviser from giving his opinion because I believe he is making a contribution. Moreover, it would be incredible if, of all national sectors, the government is not allowed to comment on the Brazilian constitution. *FOLHA*: Some opposition sectors, the PMDB and the PFL, have regarded some of your attitudes as a strong defense of your term in office and of the presidential system of government. How strongly committed are you to maintaining your term in office and to the effort to make the Constituent Assembly preserve a system of government?

Sarney: Those who really know me know perfectly well that I do not crave power. The reasons for telling the country that I decided to reduce my term by 1 year are by no means personal; just as my position toward the presidential system of government is not personal. We should recall that when I announced the reduction of my term—because my term should have lasted 6 years, since I was elected under the constitution for a 6-year term, as is the usual case with other presidential terms. [sentence as published]. I said I gave up 1 year of my term because I believe that the best term for the country—not for me—was a 5-year term. At that time we were going through a period of indecision, of very high inflation. We had neither a national nor an international standard for the presidential term. This gave rise to a situation of absolute instability for the government. It was in this sense that I spoke when I referred to the length of the presidential term.

As for the presidential system of government, I believe that to adopt the parliamentary system of government now would be very dangerous for a country like Brazil, with its large territory, its federation of states, its lack of organized parties, its district voting system [voto distrital], and the fact that its public sector professional careers are based on manpower qualifications. Those are not personal reasons; they involve the country. I have no personal position to defend. On the contrary, I have defended what I can defend on behalf of the people. I believe I have discharged my duties and that I can be at peace with my conscience. *Folha*: Why do you think there is a movement in all sectors demanding direct elections next year?

Sarney: A basic condition in a democracy is the fact that terms end and the people can elect other representatives. However, if this is destabilized, we will see ourselves in a situation in which terms will last for as long as a person holds power, in keeping with the existing problems. This goes against the political experience we have acquired throughout the years, and it gives permanent instability to all institutions. This is what is happening in Brazil. Many of those who are promoting that campaign are not aware of what they are getting into. In Spain, for example, Franco said that he did not call for elections because he had the public opinion polls, in which he was very well placed, and he did not need elections, because the polls were enough. The Brazilian people must realize that goverments have good and hard times as weel. The path is not always that easy. Brazil is a very difficult country. All transitions are difficult. *Folha*: You have devoted yourself to culture. I imagine that before taking over as president you read a lot more. Have you read lately?

Sarney: I have. I usually read at night and early in the morning. It is a deeply rooted habit.

Folha: What are you reading now?

Sarney: This weekend I finished reading Gallegos. I had not read Romulo Gallegos' "Unpublished Stories," which I got when I went to Venezuela. I took advantage of the weekend to read. I had read most of this writer's books: "Dona Barbara," "Canta Claro," "Oprobio Negro," and, in a word, all of Gallegos' books. *Folha*: What about your health, Mr President?

Sarney: Look, my health is okay. I am doing well.

Folha: And what about stress? How have you managed to combat stress?

Sarney: I hold a post in which there is permanent stress. As I said, because of my sense of responsibility I do not think I am here for fun. The presidency is not a party. It is a much more difficult mission, one I have tried to fulfill.

New Education Minister Sworn In 30 October

PY310142 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Former Piaui State Governor and present PFL Senator Hugo Napoleao is the new education minister. He replaces Senator Jorge Bornhausen, also of the PFL, who resigned from the post. Hugo Napoleao was sworn in this afternoon by President Jose Sarney.

[Begin Sarney recording] His intelligence and youth,provide Senator Hugo Napoleao with all the requirements to head the Ministry of Education and to undertake an excellent administration. His friends, his comrades, and the government expect him to succeed. [end recording]

Hugo Napoleao thanked Sarney for selecting him, and said he will not run from difficulties but will face them with dialogue and tolerance.

[Begin Napoleao recording] President Sarney told Congress this year that he would not run from difficulties and would face all problems head on. I agree with this principle. I have always tried to use tolerance and dialogue, and to use these principles in everyday business. [end recording]

Hugo Napoleao, said he will assume his duties at the Education Ministry on 3 November. The time of the ceremony has not yet been decided.

Chile

Police, Demonstrators Clash; Many Arrested

PY010255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0101 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Santiago, 31 Oct (EFE)—Three policemen were injured and hundreds of people were arrested today when police broke up a demonstration calling for free elections in Chile.

The police reported that 205 people were arrested on charges of creating a disturbance on the streets. Some of them will be placed at the disposal of the military court "for attacking Carabineros on duty."

However, unofficial reports indicate that about 400 demonstrators were arrested and taken to different police precincts.

The people arrested include Juan Pablo Letelier, the son of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, who was murdered in a bombing in Washington 11 years ago, and Christian Democrats Eugenio Ortega and Genaro Arriagada.

There were several incidents in southern Santiago, where the Youth Coordination Board, which is made up of several opposition political sectors, had called for a demonstration for free elections in Chile. Leaflets containing instructions on how to vote were distributed during this demonstration.

The most serious incidents took place in the La Cisterna neighborhood, near the Fran Avenue zone. According to official accounts, a police van reported to the site and as Carabineros stepped out, they were attacked by the demonstrators, who inflicted minor injuries. Carabineros reinforcements arrived and dispersed the demonstrators with tear-gas grenades.

FPMR Reveals Conditions for Carreno Release

PY301810 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1705 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Santiago, 30 Oct (EFE)—The Chilean extremist organization "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" (FPMR) has disclosed its "definite" conditions for the release of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno, whom the front abducted 2 months ago.

According to reliable sources to which EFE had access today, the FPMR has established two conditions: the distribution of $250,000 worth of goods to the inahbitants of shantytowns in Santiago and the distribution to the media of a "2-page document."

The "conditions" were made known to the colonel's family through Father Alfredo Soiza, who has been acting as intermediary for the release of the officer, who was abducted on 1 September.

The kidnappers request, first, that the relatives of the captive officer distribute to all sectors of the media a 2-page document that "will soon be delivered."

The second request is that $250,000 worth of clothes, foodstuffs, and construction materials be distributed in 13 shanty towns on the outskirts of Santiago.

Carreno's family was informed about the conditions by Father Alfredo Soiza, auxiliary vicar of western Santiago, who noted that the distribution of goods should start today, 30 October, and end on 1 December.

According to information obtained by EFE, Father Soiza contacted the abducted officer's family, who stated that the family only has about $50,000, obtained from the sale of belongings; they added that Carreno should be released before they fulfill the kidnappers' demands.

According to information obtained by EFE, the authorities are maintaining their position of not negotiating, but they could not oppose any distribution of goods the lieutenant colonel's family might initiate.

Father Soiza, a 36-year-old Argentine priest, has been the intermediary since at least mid-September, when it was reported that he gave Carreno's family a recorded cassette with the preliminary instructions for the delivery of the ransom.

Reports to EFE indicate that some phone calls to the media making Carreno's release conditional upon the return to Chile of all exiles were false.

In these phone calls—one of them received at EFE's offices—the alleged FPMR spokesman Mariela Vargas announced that the abducted officer would be released if the government authorized all exiles to return to Chile.

In the last part of the note, which established the definite conditions for the release, the abductors tell Father Soiza that Lieutenant Colonel Carreno is "in good physical and psychological condition and in good spirits, because he trusts that you will seriously and carefully follow the instructions for obtaining his release."

Regarding the distribution to the media of the "2-page document," the note delivered to Carreno's family indicates that they should—"directly or through Father Soiza—distribute the 2-page document, which we will deliver in the next few weeks, to all sectors of the media. This could be done in a press conference or through personal or individual appointments."

The note includes a schedule for the distribution of goods, which should start on 30 October and end on 1 December. The note adds: "We will check on the delivery directly with the shantytown people."

"The goods and clothes," the note says, "must be delivered to soup kitchens, dwellers organizations, or the shantytowns parishes to be distributed among the poor."

Among the items to be distributed to the poor, the note specifies: "20 bales of clothing (worth approximately 50,000 pesos each) to be distributed per shantytown, cheap sandals and shoes (2,000 pairs per shantytown), nonperishable foodstuffs, construction material, and toys for the children."

The note concludes by saying: "We affirm that, once these demands are seriously and carefully met, within the period of time established by us, the lieutenant colonel will be immediately released. We hold ourselves responsible, as we have always done, for the thorough fulfillment of our promise, as long as you, too, take care of your part correctly."

PCCh Supports Members' Electoral Registration

PY300016 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Cornered and facing the prospect of becoming totally isolated, the PCCh has come out in support of its members registering for the elections.

This decision was made by the PCCh Central Committee, which held a meeting somewhere in Chile. The location of the meeting was not reported.

Nevertheless, the PCCh resolution states that this decision is a PCCh contribution to defeat Pinochet and to develop its policy of popular rebellion of the masses, a policy implemented in 1980.

In addition, the PCCh resolution includes a greeting and an expression of allegiance to the CPSU on the 70th anniversary of the glorious October Revolution.

According to the observers, the decision made by the PCCh Central Committee represents a victory for the so-called moderate sector over the radicals [ultras], who oppose electoral registration, in a stance against the Constitution.

It must be recalled that former communist congresswoman Maria Maluenda registered at the electoral registry, disobeying party orders, and that the PCCh Central Committee did not dare to expel her.

In addition, the PCCh resolution proposes the creation of conditions conducive to a democratic uprising or to a national rebellion of the masses to overthrow Pinochet.

Declaration on Registration

PY311538 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
0930 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] The proscribed PCCh reaffirmed its subversive and violent line of action in a call to its members to register for elections as a tactical measure to obtain new allies. According to a document approved by the last plenum of the PCCh Central Committee, the PCCh advocates rebellion of the masses and the adoption of all forms of struggle, including military and paramilitary struggle, to overthrow the regime.

This was confirmed in a news conference granted by PCCh leader Osiel Nunez and former congresswomen Mireya Baltra and Julieta Capusano. These Communist leaders released a public declaration on the results of a secret plenum of the PCCh Central Committee that was held at a secret location, which former Senator Volodia Teitelboim also allegedly attended.

In its declaration the PCCh advocates the most effective methods of resistance to confront the regime. These methods must consist of all kinds of actions leading to a state of, quote, upheaval, civil disobedience, and the urpising of the masses, unquote.

Mireya Baltra said the PCCh approval of the electoral registry system does not represent granting a concession to its United Left allies, but, quote, it is an essentially a tactical measure, which nonetheless lacks strategic value, unquote. [sentence as heard]

Pinochet Urges Investors to Support Economy

PY310148 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish
2200 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today called on foreign investors to commit themselves openly to the defense and future growth of the political and economic system of freedom that currently prevails in Chile.

Pinochet added that to do this, it is only necessary to tell the truth about the Chilean situation to the companies and the countries they represent. Pinochet made this comment during a luncheon with about 100 foreign investors and Chilean economic officials.

In a speech, Pinochet said the government will keep its doors open to improve the mechanisms for effective foreign investments. He added that the country's economic structure has been modernized and that progress can be seen. Pinochet pointed out that the military government has always tried to lead the country to effective democracy.

Pinochet also called on the investors to realize that the search for mechanisms to strengthen the current economic and political system of freedom is not only the responsibility of the government but also of foreign investors, who believe in the system and who participate in it. Pinochet concluded by calling on the investors to continue to participate in Chilean economic process.

Further on Changes at University of Chile

Pinochet on Replacing Rector

PY300010 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet publicly explained why he accepted the resignation of University of Chile Rector Federici and appointed Juan de Dios Larrain to replace him. He said he made the decision in response to the concern of relatives of students of this university. The president made this statement during a brief speech at the ceremony to celebrate CEMA-CHILE [Mothers Centers] anniversary at the Diego Portales Building. He told the CEMA-CHILE assistants the following:

[Begin recording, in progress]...due to the various activities that I have had to carry out today because, as you know, I had to directly interfere in the university problem which is now gradually returning to normal. [applause]

I did this especially for the sake of those families who have sons at the university. Mothers are always concerned about their children's education.

Many times intellectual and good-hearted young boys find that the doors of their universities are closed and that they cannot attend lectures which only [words indistinct] their stay at the university. Therefore, I have done this especially for [words indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

DINACOS Issues Communique

PY300018 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[By reporter Tito Pincheira from the Diego Portales Building]

[Text] Chilean President Augusto Pinochet will send to the Government Junta [which acts as a legislative body] a bill giving additional powers to newly-appointed University of Chile Rector Juan de Dios Vial Larrain.

This information was released today by DINACOS, which issued a communique.

The communique states that the head of state has accepted the resignation tendered by Professor Federici and has appointed Juan de Dios Vial Larrain to replace him.

In addition, the communique states that the head of state has also accepted the resignations tendered by the members of the University of Chile Executive Board.

The following is the communique:

1. The University of Chile Executive Board and University of Chile Rector Mr Jose Luis Federici Rojas have recently tendered their resignations to his excellency, the president of the Republic.

2. Exercising his legal rights, the head of state has decided to accept the resignations tendered by the University of Chile top authorities and to appoint Professor Juan de Dios Vial Larrain, who is a professor at the University of Chile and who will assume his duties during the next few hours, as the new University of Chile rector.

3. Aware of the situation prevailing at the University of Chile, his excellency, the president of the Republic, has also decided to send to the honorable Government Junta a bill giving additional powers to the University of Chile rector to fulfill his new duties.

New Rector Sworn In

PY301521 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Professor Juan de Dios Vial Larrain was sworn in as new rector of the University of Chile to replace Jose Luis Federici, whose resignation has been accepted by President Pinochet.

The new rector said that he hope to meet with all university personnel and promptly resume academic activities. [passage omitted]

According to a legislative branch draft law, the new rector will be granted further authority.

Acting Dean of the Law School Jorge Ivan Huebner, other university deans, and the executive board have also tendered their resignations.

Rector Granted New Powers

PY302343 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] The Government Junta, presided over by General Fernando Matthei, has approved a bill granting special powers to University of Chile Rector Juan de Dios Vial Larrain. The text of the law states:

The Government Junta has approved the following bill:

Article 1. All university associations included in the structure of the University of Chile are suspended for 1 year from the date of publication of the present law. The rector will be responsible for the functions and activities of said associations, and will be able to delegate these responsibilities to whatever authorities he designates.

Article 2. The Government Junta declares that according to Article 12, paragraph H, Law 153 of 1981, which regulates aspects of the work of the Ministry of Public Education, the University does not require, and never has required, prior notification to abolish positions.

Council Members Resign

PY311628 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Excerpts] All the members of the University of Chile University Council officially submitted their resignations to Juan de Dios Vial Larrain, the new university rector. This was reported by University Council spokesman Fernando Monckeberg after a long meeting between the council and the new rector.

Monckeberg said it was a pleasant and cordial meeting, and that he believes classes will resume in all colleges on 2 November.

[Begin recording] [Monckeberg] We had a cordial meeting among professors. We reiterated our support for him, and submitted our resignations, as we had announced earlier.

We also insisted on the need to solve the problem of the dismissed professors, which we believe is an unfair situation, as well as that of the students who are facing charges. He said this was his main concern.

[Unidentified reporter] Will they be taken back?

[Monckeberg] He said it was his main concern. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The University Council spokesman said he expects classes will resume on 2 November, and that both students and professors will try to comply with the university calendar.

Before meeting with the deans, Rector Vial had been talking with Education Minister Juan Antonio Guzman, who did not make any statements as he left.

Meanwhile, Carlos Martinez Sotomayor, president of the Social Sciences Academy of the Chile Institute and member of the mediation commission of the University Council, reported on a meeting between this commssion and Rector Vial. The rector had requested the mediation commission's cooperation in his new administration.

According to Martinez, the rector said he wished to count on the commission's cooperation in his new administration. The three members of the mediation commssion naturally consented to the rector's request, Martinez said.

We told him that he can count on our help because Chile is living through an important historical moment that requires the understanding and dedication of all the people linked to the university, Martinez stated.

Martinez explained that the rector had invited the mediation commission because it mediated effectively in the conflict between the university and the government.

Colombia

FARC, Government Agree To Resume Dialogue

PA301400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0517 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Bogota, 29 Oct (AFP)—The FARC communist guerrillas agreed today to resume a dialogue with the government that will lead to future agreements on the pacification of the country.

The announcement was made by Jacobo Arenas, the ideologue of the oldest and largest guerrilla movement in Colombia, following yesterday's surprise meeting with Carlos Ossa, the presidential adviser for rehabilitation, reconciliation, and normalization.

A video recording of the meeting between Ossa and the FARC general staff held in "Casaverde," the guerrillas' refuge in the eastern Andes, was presented by the government when the presidential representative returned to Bogota.

Arena feels "great progress" has been made with Liberal President Virgilio Barco's idea of resuming the dialogue that was interrupted in June when the FARC guerrillas ambushed a military convoy in the southwestern Caqueta Department, leaving 27 soldiers dead.

Arenas said: "The FARC feels the dialogue is a determined factor," adding that "I am sure that the Colombian people will understand this."

However, the FARC general command has demanded government guarantees for the security necessary to hold the conversations and begin a transition into civilian life. The FARC General Command also insists on the dismantling of the paramilitary groups.

The FARC agreed to resume the dialogue with the understanding that this would lead to demobilization and disarmament of the guerrilla group, and it also agreed that the truce signed in March 1984 with the preceding government of Conservative Belisario Betancur cannot be extended for an indefinite period. [passage omitted]

Guerrillas Kill UP Leader,Ten Policemen

PA312105 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Bogota, 31 Oct (EFE)—It was reported today that 11 policemen, 2 guerrillas, and a leftist Patriotic Union [UP] councilman were killed in the past 24 hours in separate incidents in Colombia.

Ten policemen were killed on Friday afternoon in Arauca, in the northeast, when their van was blown up by a guerrilla column of the Camilist Union-ELN (UC-ELN), a Christian Marxist group.

Military sources said the explosives were placed in milk bottles along the highway. The bottles exploded as the vehicle drove past a military checkpoint.

These sources added that the guerrillas stole the dead policemens' weapons. A captain was among the 10 casualties. The guerrillas fled as the soldiers began firing at them.

UP Councilman Alfonso Perdomo, 34, president of the Ariari agrarian council in the southeast, was shot 5 times while riding a rural bus near Vista Hermosa. Three unknown persons stopped the bus and ordered the UP councilman and peasant leader to get out. They shot Perdomo in front of the other passengers. Perdomo's murder brings to 476 the number of UP leaders and members killed during the party's 2 year existence.

Perdomo was one of the main leaders of a demonstration by 2,000 peasants who not long ago had tried to march to Bogota to demand economic gains and the right to life. The demonstration was stopped 40 km from the Colombian capital when an agreement was reached with the government.

In Medellin, a UC-ELN guerrilla group held up a Cafetero Bank branch and later stormed a checkpoint, killing one policeman.

Army sources said that in Curillo, south of Caqueta in the southeast, two FARC guerrilllas were killed in a clash with Army troops.

These incidents took place 48 hours after Wednesday's announcement that the Colombian Government had resumed talks with the FARC following a 4-month suspension. It was also reported that the guerrillas and the authorities were prepared to begin negotiations with all of the country's guerrilla groups.

Barco Condemns Ambush

PA012336 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Colombian President Virgilio Barco today condemned a guerrilla ambush that left 10 policemen dead in Arauca, in the northeastern part of the country, but he reiterated the government's willingness to hold a dialogue with rebels who "are willing to return to civilian life."

Military spokesmen blamed the Camilista Union-army of National Liberation (UCELN), a Christian-Marxist guerrilla group, for Friday's bomb attack on a van carrying 10 policemen, all of whom were killed.

Barco called the attack a "vile" and "repugnant terrorist act" that has violated "the most basic humanitarian principles."

The president expressed hope that "the soldiers and policemen who have been ordered to find the murderers will succeed."

Even though Barco said the ambush was similar to the one in Caqueta Department 4 months ago— that attack led the government to announce the truce with the FARC had ended— he reiterated he was willing to talk with rebels who are willing to return to civilian life. [passage omitted]

Explosions Damage Three Mormon Churches

PA301441 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1251 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Several attacks have been perpetrated throughout our national territory, and even the churches have not been spared. The Mormon churches in Tunja, Duitama, and Sogamoso were attacked with dynamite, and three people were critically injured. The structures were damaged, and glass fragments fell and injured some people. No rebel group has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks on the churches.

Ecuador

Workers Strike 'Totally' Paralyzes Quito

PA300439 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1549 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The northern sector of Quito, as well as the entire city, was totally paralyzed by the worker's strike today. The few urban buses that were seen in the early morning disappeared as the day progressed. There were no taxis running, and the few vehicles that dared to move had to contend with the strikers' reprisals. Workers and slum dwellers [words indistinct] nails [words indistinct] on the roads. Northern Quito, a factory area, closed down at 1000, and it was noted that the northern Panamerican Highway was deserted. Smoking vehicle tires were seen on most roads; the police were firing tear gas in all directions; and the demonstrators would regroup as soon as the police left. They would continue burning logs in order to obstruct the roads. In Quito, activities stopped almost completely today.

Demonstrations Against Government Continue

Constitution Tribunal Attacked

PA301709 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1556 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Quito, 30 Oct (DPA)—Isolated but still strong demonstrations against President Leon Febres Cordero's government are continuing in Quito and other Ecuadoran cities today for the 4th consecutive day. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal [TGC] reported it had been attacked by the police.

"The police fired a barrage of tear gas bombs inside the building," said TGC President Rene de la Torre, who described the incident as "an attack on a democratic institution."

The alleged attack on the TGC—the highest authority on constitutional issues—occurred at a time when the government is conducting a widespread campaign of criticism against congress and the TGC for their participation in the trial and dismissal of interior Minister Luis Alba, who is accused of serious human rights violations.

Congress, controlled by center and leftist opposition sectors, voted to censure Robles but the sentence was not implemented by the government, which asserted that the process was illegal. The TGC, which is the only institution authorized to declare an act illegal, confirmed the trial's "full validity."

The protests, which seek to force the government to implement the congressional decision, began on Tuesday and reached their most critical level the next day, when a national strike almost brought the country to a standstill. The government had to declare a state of emergency and censor the press. New demonstrations took place today, but they have become weaker.

Police Disperse Students

PA310125 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2205 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Quito, 30 Oct—(REUTER)—Some 200 students who were protesting the government's refusal to censure Government Minister Luis Robles Plaza threw stones at the police and set up bonfires outside the university in Quito today.

A *Reuter* reporter saw tear gas grenades thrown at students from armored vehicles that sped along the avenue leading to Indoamerica Plaza in front of the main university in Quito. The students fled but later returned to their positions. There were no reports of deaths or arrests, a police spokesman told *Reuter*.

The students said they were protesting the government's decision not to censure Government Minister Robles, who denied Congress' charges implicating him in the violation of human rights. "Robles must resign," a student at the protest site told *Reuter*.

It was observed that the students responded to the police attacks by picking up the tear gas grenades and hurling them back at the police. The students stopped passing vehicles and asked them for gasoline, which they threw on a bonfire of wood and tires.

President Leon Febres Cordero, who lifted the 24-hour state of national emergency yesterday, said it was illegal to censure Robles. [passage omitted]

Radio Stations Protest

PA311624 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1325 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Statement by Jorge Aguilar, president of the Pichincha chapter of the Ecuadoran Radio Broadcasting Association—live]

[Text] In view of the events of Wednesday, 28 October, which are known by the public, involving the discriminatory and unfriendly actions by government authorities and officials against the Ecuadoran broadcasters, the broacasters of my province unanimously decided to suspend activities from 0800 to 1100 today, as a strong protest against the misguided actions of government officials.

The suspension of our daily activities during this long period of silence has no political overtones. Its sole purpose is to demonstrate our association's protest in solidarity against the serious abuses perpetrated against our radio stations. These abuses can be seen in the following actions:

The periodic closure of radio stations for diverse reasons and under different circumstances.

The permanent request by the Executive Branch to set up radio networks.

The open discrimination against the country's radio stations by well-known officials.

The discrimination against radio broadcasters shown by forcing them to join permanent networks, because this measure has not been applied to other news media.

The use of the state of emergency law to force Ecuadoran radio broadcasters to air one-sided news. Those radio stations which did not carry any news reports and aired musical programs were in fact closed and reprimanded.

In view of this situation, the Pichincha radio broadcasters are maintaining silence as of now in a clear demonstration of its proud and [word indistinct] protest against the government's behavior.

The network of silence now begins. Fellow citizens, thank you.

Tribunal To Summon President

PA311624 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] The TGC has unanimously decided to summon President Leon Febres Cordero for having issued Executive Decrees No 33-76 and 33-83 pertaining to the national state of emergency. The tribunal will also hand the resolution to Congress to allow it to take measures it deems appropriate.

A report by tribunal members Mentor Poveda and Edelberto Bonilla paved the way to the resolution. Among other things, it states that Decree No 33-76 not only violated freedom of speech, but also the right to property by establishing prior censorship on the media.

The resolution also states that Decree 33-76 is based on point N, article 78 of the Constitution, and that the decree was issued even though there was no serious internal disturbance in the country. It states that the application of censorship on the media overstepped the boundaries of the decree itself by forcing all radio stations to place themselves at the service of government news. This violates the principle of freedom of speech mandated by the current Constitution.

The operative part of the resolution states that the TGC is summoning the president of the Republic for violating Article 78, point N of the Constitution, points 5, 6, and 7 of Article 19, and points 4 and 13 of Article 48.

Before discussion of this issue, tribunal member Lenin Rosero requested that Decree No 33-76 be officially read. The United Leftist Front requested that the decree be repealed.

Official Justifies Censorship

PA311659 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Interview with Marco Lara Guzman, national secretary for public information, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] After expressing regret at a decision made by the Pichincha chapter of the Ecuadoran Radio Broadcasting Association to suspend radio station transmissions today, Saturday, from 0900 to 1200, Marco Lara Guzman, national secretary for public information, has justified a national government decision to prevent radio stations from broadcasting news during a FUT [Sole Workers Front] strike:

[Begin recording] [Lara] That implies depriving a large number of Ecuadoreans from receiving information from the radio stations, which have always been and will always be very important. The music and entertainment programs broadcast by radio stations are generally a sort of permanent presence for Ecuadoreans at home and at work.

As I said, I deeply regret this decision. I have no other comment to make but this: The measures adopted by the government stem from a constitutional regime. If one does not like the measures mandated by the Constitution, the only option available is to amend the Constitution. As long as a Constitution is not amended, the laws are there and must be obeyed.

Let us not forget one important fact: The current Constitution was drafted by a commission made up of prestigious jurists with expertise in the social sciences, and so on, and included no government officials. Moreover, the current Constitution was approved by a huge majority in a January 1978 plebiscite.

Finally—and this is a personal hope—I hope that we will at no time clash with anyone. The government does not want this, and neither do I. I hope that any problems have been overcome and that new perspectives have taken root.

[Unidentified reporter] The government has always reaffirmed its respect for freedom of speech in our nation. Do you believe that the measures were exaggerated and went too far?

[Lara] It is very difficult to answer that question because such a brief period of time has elapsed. Situations are better viewed with some historical perspective. In fact, even paintings look better from a slight distance. It is difficult to make a judgment, because such a short period of time has elapsed since this incident.

Nevertheless, I believe that the state of emergency—specified in the Constitution—allows a blackout of information. In fact, I also support an information blackout,

but this in response to more important causes. I have never been president and probably never will be. There are millions of Ecuadoreans and only two, three, or four can be presidents.

This decision is a tough one to make, and one ultimately knows how right or wrong such a decision is only after some time has elapsed, enabling one to look back in retrospect.

[Reporter] The media have strongly criticized this censorship decision. What do you as a newsman think?

[Lara] Of course, in line with my habitual frankness, I have heard those criticisms, which make my spirit heavy. However, in weighing what I did and did not do, I feel calm, because I did things that are in keeping with the law; totally and absolutely within the law. Of course, I regret that no one can satisfy everyone. [end recording]

Peru

Government Nationalizing 4 More Financial Firms

PA020413 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] The government has started expropriation proceedings against four more private loan associations in compliance with nationalization laws. They are Progreso, Promotora Peruana, Financiera Nacional, and Financiera Sur Americana.

Interior Ministry on Shining Path Leader's Arrest

PA301958 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Oct 87

[30 October communique issued by the Peruvian Interior Ministry in Lima]

[Text] The Interior Ministry fulfills its duty to report to the public the following:

1. A newspaper today published a report with the headline: DICOTE [Antiterrorist Directorate] Kidnaps Theology Student. It stated that the DICOTE of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] has arbitrarily been holding in its cells theology student Antonio Ponce Ilario, whom the PIP accuses of being the leader of a Shining Path assassination command. The same article added that Ponce Ilario 's relatives have charged that, thus far, neither they nor Ponce's lawyer, Dr Hugo Rodriguez, have been able to see him. The article also said that Ponce Ilario has a deep cut in his arm and that he cannot be moved because he has a cancerous tumor in his left leg.

2. In this regard, the Interior Ministry reports:

A. Terrorist criminal Antonio Melquiades Ponce Ilario had been sought in relation to his terrorist acts since 30 July 1987 [words indistinct] DICOTE, after his participation in various terrorist attacks in metropolitan Lima had been established. He was identified by his brother, Walter Juan, (Betty Sangama Arellano,) (Wilfredo Echagaya Guillen), and other prisoners as member of the Shining Path's (?central zone) of metropolitan Lima, holding the post of political commander.

B. On 22 October 1987, DICOTE personnel detained the aforementioned subversive while he was boarding a bus. At that time he threw subversive material on the ground.

C. His arrest was reported to the 40th District prosecutor's office and the 40th Lima Court through Documents 10,021 and 10,020. Through Document 10,018, a legal medical examination was requested in accordance with legal regulations. D. On 27 October 1987, at 1150, the prisoner gave his statement in the presence of his defense lawyer, Dr Hugo Rodriguez Silva, and Dr Carlos Americo Ramos Heredia of the 40th District Prosecutor's Office.

E. So far in the investigative process, witnesses have recognized him as being responsible for the following terrorist attacks: the assassination of Dr Miguel Castro Castro, director of the INPE [National Penitentiary Institute], on 24 October 1987; the assassination of Peruvian Vice Admiral Geronimo Cafferata on 14 October 1986; the assassination of Rodrigo Franco Montes, executive director of ENCI [National Enterprise for Industrial Marketing], on 4 April 1987; the attack on the [word indistinct] factory in Callao in April 1987; the attack on the Indian Embassy in which three members of the Civil Guard were killed on 26 January 1987; and the attack on the [name indistinct] shoe factory on 5 May 1987.

Lima, 30 October 1987

[Signed] Social Communications Office of the Interior Ministry

'Narcoterrorists' Ambush Army Patrol

PA012353 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Interior Ministry Communique issued in Lima on 30 October]

[Text] The Interior Ministry informs the public that:

1. At 0930 on 28 October, an undetermined number of narcoterrorists ambushed a Peruvian Army patrol led by a lieutenant. The lieutenant and 16 soldiers were guarding a group of workers of the (Alto Guayaga-sigastea) special project who are rebuilding the Tingo Maria-(Aucayacu) road in the (Puente Facae) area.

2. As soon as the regional authorities were informed of the emergency, they immediately sent a joint patrol of Army and police personnel from Tingo Maria.The patrol arrived at the site of the ambush at 1030 and reinforced the Army and police personnel, who were besieged by the terrorists for approximately 90 minutes. The subversives continued fighting for approximately 2 hours. In view of the reinforcements' bold attack and superior firepower, however, the terrorists fled and headed toward the forest.

3. Soldier Manuel Acedo Sacramento was killed in the clash, and other four soldiers, three workers, and a Civil Guard corporal were slightly wounded. The wounded were evacuated to Tingo Maria in a police helicopter.

4. Five unidentified terrorists were killed in the clash.

5. Policemen recovered a machinegun that had been stolen from the police, a shotgun, grenades, and various types of ammunition.

Court Removes Judge From Nationalization Cases

PA301615 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Jaime Moran Cisneros has been removed as judge of the 14th civil court in Lima. The Supreme Court ordered the removal because Judge Moran engaged in behavior unbecoming a judge.There were also serious irregularities in the performance of his duties.

The entire Supreme Court, in a special session, presided over by Doctor (Jose Maria Galvez Vega), unanimously voted to dismiss Moran.

This drastic step has been taken against Judge Moran for having advanced opinions on writs of amparo in which he ruled in favor of the stockholders affected by the law on nationalization of the financial system.

Uruguay

Defense Minister Views Armed Forces Role

PY281519 Montevideo LA DEMOCRACIA in Spanish 23 Oct 87 pp 12,13

[Interview with Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino by unidentifired reporter—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] During the de facto regime, the Armed Forces gave themselves a specific mission. Under the current democratic regime, however, the political sector seems to have failed to determine what role the Armed Forces should play in society. Can you, as a progressive defense minister, determine the specific mission of the Armed Forces? Can you, with an eye toward the future, tell us what type of Armed Forces you would like to have in the country, and for what purpose?

[Chiarino] [Passage omitted] To answer your question from the point of view of what the Armed Forces should be in the future, I must say that everything we have been doing will be projected into the future. We believe the Armed Forces have changed throughout the world. In some countries, however, whose problems are very different from ours, where they have to worry about possible conflicts or possible foreign intervention, the role of the Armed Forces is very different. In our case, we must convince ourselves that the Armed Forces'first duty is to defend national integrity. This concept must be made very clear because some people ask whether the National Security Law, as a doctrine, is still in effect in the country. It is not. The country ceased to be ruled by the National Security Law the moment we joined the Defense Ministry. Those who say this law has never existed in the country are also mistaken. This law, combined with the National Security Doctrine that was popular throughout the world then, was rejected in a plebiscite, along with the plan for constitutional reform. One of the most rejected aspects of this reform plan was precisely its similarity to the National Security Doctrine.

Therefore, I insist that our efforts be directed toward the future, our current efforts and those we are planning for tomorrow, be they the reformulation of the military law or other measures for the reinforcement of the integrationist policies we are adopting regarding Army cooperation with society.

[Reporter] Why have the Armed Forces organic laws not been approved yet?

[Chiarino] This is a very delicate matter and to improvise would be tremendously wrong. If you analyze the precedents of current military laws, you will realize that the country usually takes a long time to approve basic legislation. The amendments made to these laws, in different periods, were probably much easier to approve. The 1974 Organic Law was amended several times during the next decade. However, if I show you the issues of the military code you will see that it took years for the country to approve them. We think that the moment has come for a careful analysis of the situation and that everyone's opinion must be taken into consideration. The commission designated by the Ministry made an effort to bring the previous law up to date. The study was sent to the Ministry. We proposed some amendments and additions and sent it to the president. The commanders in chief also have a copy of the documents because we want to know their views on the subject. Congress, of course, will have the final word.

[Reporter] The ranks of colonel and general have to be approved by the Senate; therefore, these ranks could somehow be considered to be political posts. The military career typically ends at the rank of lieutenant colonel. The Armed Forces, however, think that the military career ends at the rank of colonel and that

Senate approval is bureaucratic. Within this framework, do you think the military career ends at the rank of lieutenant colonel or at the rank of colonel?

[Chiarino] I think the military career ends at the rank of colonel, even though colonels aspire to the highest level. We already have a problem with them. Are you aware of the problem with the colonels?

[Reporter] I was just going to ask if you agree with the present chain of command. I mean the present relation between generals and colonels.

[Chiarino] I think it is all right. I also agree with congressional supervision of promotions. Promotions to the highest ranks have a very important influence on the country. I do not think it is reasonable to suspend congressional supervision though I know the issue is controversial. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Minister, there are documents, statements, and comments which give the impression that sectors of the Armed Forces want to continue to work alone to decide who is the enemy—Marxist. One wonders how the Army Intelligence Services operate today, and whether their activities are somehow related to those groups which they themselves have defined as being the enemy, and whether there is a strict control by your Ministry of those intelligence services.

[Chiarino] I will try to be very clear about this very serious problem. You have stated that some publications have demonstrated that the enemy is to be found only in some sectors of the Armed Forces. This is part of a doctrinal concept, and this has been confirmed not only by relatively recent writings by people who lived through the subversion, of which you are aware. This cannot be underestimated. On this matter we must be very meticulous regarding exaggerations on the one hand and underestimations on the other.

Unfortunately, not all of those who lived through subversion have realized that changes must also affect them. This is the reason for the emergence of the movement which, although they may not worry us right now, will worry us because of the manner in which they will act. This could become a widespread policy or a modus operandi which could definitely lead to subversion again. It is only natural that some sectors of the Armed Forces will be a little worried about these negative actions. I can sincerely and with a clear conscience tell you that at this moment there is no reason whatsoever to presume that any important people may have the desire to return to a regime which would jeopardize the freedom we enjoy today. I want to stress this because I feel it deep in my heart. This cannot be the work of the Ministry but of the people in general. I think the executive branch has contributed a great deal through the policy which it has implemented. I am particularly referring to the president of the Republic. By no means do I believe that anyone, except for a madman, could think, as it was thought in a neighboring country, of a movement that would lead to a violent situation of the ultraright.

The danger, however,remains because they do not miss opportunities of showing how far the Marxist-Leninist doctrine may reach. Socialism is entirely compatible with democratic regimes, as witnessed by the intense socialist evolution being conducted in Spain and France, where there is very little of the old socialism left. In these and several other places, a very rapid and profound evolution is taking place. The old Marxist-Leninist doctrines, however, continue to be used. Some sectors seem to believe in writing slogans on walls, and some of these slogans are even degrading.

All of this still inspires a certain fear in some military sectors, who react to this fear. I do not believe that these reactions deserve special attention. I believe that currently, the idea is to be alert—and here I refer to the intelligence services—to be on the alert to all types of movements.

Curiously, without the ministry's or military intervention, the Intelligence Service was placed under the direct authority of the Defense Ministry. Previously, it was under the authority of the commanders in chief. This modification was proposed 1 and 1/2 years ago but, for some reason, it was excluded by Congress from the (?reform) plan. Now, however, it depends directly on the ministry. I am in permanent contact with the Intelligence Service director. He visits the Ministry twice a month, unless an important issue makes it necessary for me to call him—and this happens often—to brief him on certain matters, or to ask him to clarify certain topics.

[Reporter] What is the current role of the intelligence services?

[Chiarino] As you may well understand, the role of the Intelligence Service is classified and I cannot go into details. Some impatient politicians believe that I should give detailed reports on the essence and activities of the Intelligence Service. This is illogical, because the intelligence services are secret worldwide. As far as I know, all countries, socialist and democratic alike, have intelligence service with these same characteristics.

[Reporter] But one always tends to relate intelligence services with the espionage or counterespionage service of foreign enemies.

[Chiarino] That is right.

[Reporter] But that does not seem to be so in our case.

[Chiarino] No. But you must understand that this is the case with the internal enemies of other countries. But things work the other way round here. In other words, the espionage and counterespionage service of those

great nations, that practically dominate the world, are primarily looking abroad and secondly inside their own country. To a great extent things, in our case, work the other way round because we do not foresee any possible, probable, or hypothetical foreign threats. Therefore, our intelligence services have to watch what is happening inside the country but, and I have always insisted on this, not only from a single point of view. They keep me informed about everything but we do not worry about petty political issues. At the beginning of my administration, as you well know, there were some charges on alleged monitoring which, in fact, was wrong. Everything has been settled, but I am not going to go into details because the secrecy with which the Intelligence Service is handled forms part of its very essence. The service only informs the minister and under secretary but no other members of the ministry hear about these things.

Sanguinetti To Visit Central America 21-26 Nov

PY300221 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The government has officially announced President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's November schedule. The president's activities include a visit to Central America. [passage omitted]

The most important activity to be conducted by President Sanguinetti in November is the visit he will make to Central America from 21-26 November. The president will visit Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. The visit was described as a working visit during which Sanguinetti will hold talks with Central American presidents.

Suriname

Topberaad Members Hold News Conference

FL291940 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Nine of the ten partners in the Top Deliberating Council yesterday held a press conference after government leader Bouterse announced his decision to hold elections in all districts in Suriname next month. With the exception of the February 25 United Movement, the Top Deliberating Council disagrees with this, but has not yet come up with a collective standpoint on this question. Addressing the press yesterday were Jaggernath Lachmon, Henck Arron, and Fred Derby. They couldn't say if their parties will put up candidates in the three districts which are under the state of emergency.

NPS [Suriname National Party] Chairman Henck Arron says he doesn't see any reason, at this moment, not to participate in the elections. Derby, of the Suriname Labor Party, said his party will dispute the results if it appears that the elections are held unconstitutionally.

Likewise, the majority in the Top Deliberating Council is of the opinion that Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch isn't qualified to submit the resignation of his cabinet to the military authorities. They referred to the agreement which was signed in April by the Top Deliberating Council on the basis of which the cabinet of Wijdenbosch was formed. Derby said yesterday, at the press conference of the Top Deliberating Council, that they asked the president not to honor the resignation because it wasn't requested by the parties in the Top Deliberating Council.

According to Henck Arron, who also spoke at the press conference, 9 of the 13 ministers disagree with the request for their resignation. The ministers themselves, however, have not given their opinion in public on this question.

Opposition Leader Speaks at Protest Rally

FL301543 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Suriname's opposition leaders told at least 10,000 people at a protest rally that military ruler Desi Bouterse's decision to hold crucial elections next month in three war zones had destroyed efforts at reconciliation between the Army and civilians.

Jaggernath Lachmon said Wednesday night that the question is not who has won or lost. He said, in his words, it is the people of Suriname who have lost. Mr Lachmon leads a three-party Front for Democracy and Development.

Mr Lachmon said the military ruler's decision reached over the protest from the oversight [as heard] supreme council and the cabinet, wipes out efforts at cooperation between Mr Bouterse and civilian leaders. He also said that the front would fight the decision through legal means.

The November 25th elections in Suriname will be the first since 1977 and would replace Mr Bouterse's government.

Constitution To Be Officially Proclaimed

FL302030 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Tonight, at 2000, the Constitution will be officially proclaimed by a Presidential Resolution. After the people adopted the Constitution on September 30 last, Acting President Fred Ramdat-Misier consulted with both government leader Bouterse and Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch on this matter. Among those attending the proclamation at the Presidential Palace tonight will be the Top Deliberating Council and the Council of Ministers.

Procedure for Simultaneous Elections Upheld
PM021013 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 20 Oct 87 p 6

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Wijdenbosch Remains Firm on Simultaneous Elections"]

[Text] Paramaribo—Surinamese Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch is not prepared to listen to pleas to separate the National Assembly elections and elections to the so-called provincial councils [ressortraden], both to be held 25 November. In the current interim assembly the fear has been voiced that voters will be too confused if two constitutional bodies have to be elected simultaneously. The voting papers for the provincial councils will be very large because of the large number of candidates' names.

Prime Minister Wijdenbosch has refused to postpone the provincial elections, because in his view this would only lead to greater confusion. In addition, according to Wijdenbosch, the political parties will do everything to prevent votes being lost. "During the referendum too there were propagandists for the political parties present on the doorsteps of the polling stations giving instructions to the voters," Wijdenbosch said. Another reason why he does not want to postpone the provincial council elections is that from these bodies district councils [districtsraden] must later be elected whose task it will be to settle issues on which the National Assembly is unable to reach a two-thirds majority decision. This could happen very soon in the choice of a president.

Meanwhile it has been confirmed that no elections will take place 25 November in the three Surinamese districts in which Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle Commando is operating. This has been decided by the Supreme Council comprising representatives of the old political parties, the trade union movement, employers, and the military. The three districts did take part in the 31 October [as published] constitutional referendum, but they did not produce more than 3 percent of the total votes cast in Suriname.

Three of the four political parties which had originally been excluded from the elections because of insufficient membership have now been given permission to take part in them by Acting President Ramdat Misier. However, in this review of the positions of these parties, the Progressive Surinamese People's Party (PSV) was unable to meet the conditions laid down. The PSV will now support the Front of [Progressive Reformed Party leader] Lachmon, [Suriname National Party leader] Arron, and [Indonesian Peasants' Party leader] Soemita.